All-time NSL greats . . . Page 11 South Melb Hellas Special Pages 12/13

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

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SOCCEROOS ON TARGET

BY LOU GAUTIER

AFTER last Sunday's stirring 1-1 draw against Israel in Tel Aviv, the Socceroos are well on target to win the Oceania World Cup group.

With two qualifying matches left — against New Zealand in Auckland on April 2 and Israel at the Sydney Football Stadium on April 16 — Australia sits atop the standings with three points out of a possible four.

Frank Arok was always confident that six points would be sufficient to get through to the next round — against the winners of Group 2 in South America.

The Aussies are half-way there and the pressure is well and truly on Israel, whose goal-difference is inferior and who will labour under the immense handicap of losing its European expatriates for the Australian leg.

Eli Ohana, Ronnie Rosenthal and David Pizanti won't be in Sydney for the final showdown, but it now appears certain Charlie Yankos, Eddie Krncevic and Frank Farina will answer Arok's call.

It's now all systems go for the next assignment — against the All Whites, this time strengthened by their NSL players — on Sunday week.

Despite the easy 4-1 in Sydney, the Socceroos must treat the Kiwis with respect.

They are a different proposition at home and though it would take a miracle for them to win through, they are determined to have a say in shaping the outcome of the group.

Despite the absence of the European-based trio, a defeat in Auckland is unthinkable.

Arok is not the man to countenance any complacency. You can rest assured he will have his players motivated to the max.

Should Australia total five points after the return game against New Zealand, we would be in the box seat for the group finale against Israel because it's hard to imagine an under-strength Israel making up the goal-difference in the Shaky Isles.

In Israel's case two heads were definitely not better than one, as last Sunday's result in Tel Aviv demonstrated. In a rather unique experiment, Israel switched to a tandem coaching formation to combat the wiles of Frank Arok, appointing the duo of Ya'akov Grundman (left) and Yitzhak Schneor in charge of the national team. The Israeli Soccer Press have nicknamed them S & S (Shin & Gimmel in Hebrew). Speakers of that language will know that this is the abbreviation for the battalion policemen in the Israeli army. The Socceroos will attempt to put them behind bars when the teams meet in a rematch in Sydney on April 16.

NSL EXCITEMENT IN MELBOURNE

EVERGREEN Ossie Latif of Sunshine George Cross glides past Heidelberg's Alan Scott in last Sunday's clash at the Olympic Village. He was a scorer in his team's 2-1 win, taking his tally to five goals. Sunshine is currently fifth on the NSL table. *Pix: CARMELO BAZZANO*

Brisbane stages third women's Oceania Cup

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE culmination of months of planning and not a few setbacks comes to fruition on Sunday when the third Oceania Cup women's international tournament kicks off in Brisbane.

It is the first time the series has been played on Australian soil and the two home sides will be trying to win the cup for this country for the first time.

Three years ago Australia was beaten in the final by Chinese Taipei and in the first competition was runner-up to New Zealand.

But far more than prestige hangs on the outcome of this series.

With the long-awaited Women's World Cup now almost certain to go ahead, the 1989 Oceania Cup is a virtual elimination tournament.

Joanne Millman

And that means Australia — whether it be the Green or Gold squads — must beat both the team from Taiwan and the Kiwis, opponents it has not always done well against in the past.

Then there is India, an unknown quantity which has put considerable work into its preparation for the series, and Papua New Guinea.

Originally, there were two more but Hong Kong, not the most reliable of sides when it comes to fulfilling international commitments, and Polynesia, decided to reverse previous decisions to come to Australia.

It means that the tournament has become a full round-robin, with a final and a play-off for third place on the last day — April 1.

Oceania award to Farina

AUSTRALIA'S FRANK FARINA has been voted the first Oceania Footballer of the Year.

The Socceroo star received 27 votes, with runner up Alan Davidson on 24, in a poll arranged by Sydney Soccer journalist Ted Simmons for the official magazine of the International Federation of Football History and Statistics in West Germany.

It is planned to present Farina with a suitable award whilst he is back in Sydney from Club Brugge in Belgium for the World Cup match against Israel on April 16.

The vote was checked by Australian Soccer Federation general secretary, Alan Vessey, in Sydney recently.

The full result of the poll was: Frank Farina 27 votes, Alan Davidson (Aust) 23, Wynton Rufer (NZ) 17, Michael McGarry (NZ) 11, Antoine Kombouare (New Caledonia) 11, David Mitchell (Aust) 10, Oscar Crino (Aust) 8, Pascal Vahirua (Tahiti) 7, Paul Wade (Aust) 6, Clint Gosling (NZ) 5, Eddie Krncevic (Aust) 5, Ivo Evans (Fiji) 3, Charlie Yankos (Aust) 2.

Farina received votes from seven members — the same as Davidson — with Rufer getting points from six.

Voting was restricted to Keith Gilmour (Editor Australian Soccer Weekly), Peter Desira (Melbourne Sun), Peter Burns (IFFHS representative, Melbourne), Terry Hobin (publisher, Soccer Express NZ), Dave Petraska (editor, Soccer Express NZ), Terry Maddaford (NZ Herald, Auckland), Russell Gray (NZ Dominion, Auckland), Paul Moon (IFFHS representative, NZ), Michel Ferrand (Tahiti), and Ted Simmons (IFFHS representative, Sydney).

It is hoped to include voters from additional areas, such as Taiwan, Papua New Guinea and Fiji, when the poll is conducted at the end of this year.

Oceania Player of the Year Frank Farina, seen here with SBS-TV's Andy Paschalidis and Eddie Krncevic at Marconi Stadium last year. The two Belgian-based Socceroos linked up again in Tel Aviv last week.

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NATIONAL YOUTH CUP

THE NSW Soccer Federation has declined to stage this year's national youth championship.

The championship is likely to be held at the National Institute of Sport, in Canberra.

Apparently, no state was keen to stage the event because the Australian Soccer Federation is said to still owe money to NSW for the 1987 series.

McDOWALL BACK SOON

GARRY McDOWALL may be fit in time for Australia's next two World Cup qualifiers.

The new Heidelberg signing has recovered from his nagging injury and played in the club's youth team last weekend.

McDowall underwent ankle surgery four weeks ago.

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Robbie Slater, alas, polished his boots in vain. He was not selected to travel to Israel with the Socceroos, but is one of the select few who have been offered contracts by the ASF.

Socceroo contracts

INCLUDED in the kit of each Socceroo as they boarded the plane to Athens and Tel Aviv last week was a contract the Australian Soccer Federation was hoping the players would sign before returning home yesterday (Tuesday).

The contracts offer the Socceroos a retainer, a match fee and a bonus, as well as a clause stipulating they cannot join a foreign club until the 1990 finals in Italy have been completed — provided Australia qualifies.

Any player who is lured abroad while Australia is still involved in the World Cup will have to refund their World Cup earnings to the ASF.

Although the idea is said to have come from the players themselves, it is believed that only a handful returned home this week with their contracts signed.

The 18 players who were offered contracts do not include Charlie Yankos, Eddie Krncevic and Frank Farina.

The list included all the players who went to Israel, plus Alex Tobin, Robbie Slater and Jason Polak.

This is the first time that national team players are on a retainer, but obviously the stay-at-home clause has caused a reluctance to sign.

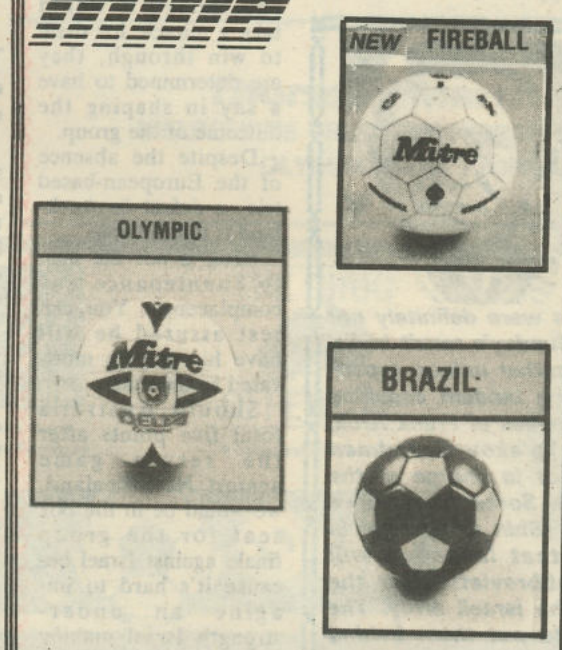
ASF general secretary Alan Vassey, however, is confident most of the team will sign.

With a contract in hand, national team players will have the financial security they lacked in the past.

Their commitment will be recognised and, hopefully, they will no longer lose money when they don the green and gold.

— LOU GAUTIER

mitre



NEW CUP SPONSOR

THE National Soccer League is expected to reveal the identity of its cup sponsor this week.

Talks have been in progress for some time and the NSL is confident of a long-term commitment which may enable the competition to eventually include clubs from the various state leagues.

The NSL management said the new sponsors were keen to give the cup series an "FA Cup look."

Israel vs Australia 1-1

A draw worth its weight in gold!

FROM PHIL MARTIN

TEL AVIV — The giant electronic scoreboard at Ramat Gan Stadium may have flashed a final score of 1-1, but there was little doubt who the moral victors were on Sunday.

You just had to look at the wide grins on the Australians at the final whistle to realise that the point gleaned under trying conditions in Israel was worth much, much more.

Australia not only fully deserved to stay ahead, on goal-difference, in the Oceania group, but the two points had been theirs for the taking.

With an ounce of luck, and more faith in themselves early in the second half, they would just about have wrapped up the group there and then.

The Socceroos again showed tremendous character when the odds were stacked against them.

They had to contend *with a 50,000 crowd,* not surprisingly fanatically devoted to the home side, a very harsh penalty which gave Israel the lead and the explusion of Wally Savor just when they were really getting into their stride and swarming all over a demoralised opponent.

Israel again only flattered to deceive. Their team is chockful of brilliant individuals, but as a team they were found wanting.

Australia had the upper hand for all but the last 10 minutes of the first half, and had its not been for a superb save by goalie Bonni Ginzberg from a 22-metre freekick by Charlie Yankos, Australia could have opened the scoring as early as the fifth minute.

The Socceroos took the game to the Israelis straight from the kick-off. Far from being intimidated by the large crowd, it galvanised them and the spectators were strangely hushed for long spells.

They only found their voices in the last eight minutes or so of the half and were positively besides themselves in the 44th minute when Israel forced two corners as the Australian defence lost its composure.

It was a very tense moment indeed for the Socceroos.

After a shaky start, during which he gave away fouls and sprayed misdirected passes, Steve Calderan gained in stature, kept the dangerous Eli Ohana in check and developed a good partnership with skipper Yankos, who was close to being the man of the match.

That was enough to instill confidence in the whole team and Israel's first half chances were few and far between.

Three consecutive curling corner-kicks by Sinai in the 21st minute put Australia under some pressure and the same player tested Jeff Olver with a wicked shot in the 44th minute, which the Aussie goalie palmed away before Arnold cleared the danger *with a hefty clearance.*

Frank Farina figured in two explosive moves in the 14th and 16th minutes, Oscar Crino sailed a freekick over the bar in the 16th and Farina failed to latch on to a perfect Crino cross when in a promising position in the 41st minute.

Israel started the second half like a team possessed, and were brushing the Australian defenders aside with arrogant ease as they pushed forward in eye-catching moves.

It was apparent the Socceroos had, most unwisely, decided to play for the draw — far too early in the piece.

A goal appeared imminent, but when it came it was in the form of a penalty generously awarded by West German referee Manfred Neumer, who otherwise had an excellent game and was totally impartial.

Alan Davidson's handling of the ball in the 66th minute, however, was absolutely accidental as it clearly ricocheted off his boot to his hand.

It had all started from a free-kick by Sinai for a late tackle by Calderan on Ohana.

Several television replays clearly showed the ball had bounced on Davidson's hand, but the referee ignored the Australians' protests and Ohana made no mistake with a perfectly executed spot-kick which went in under the bar despite a valiant attempt by Olver.

The penalty sparked the Australians back into action. Far from knocking the stuffing out of them, they came out of their defensive shell and grabbed the initiative again.

The equaliser took only six minutes to come — and again it was captain Charlie Yankos who came to the rescue.

The man's free-kicks just keep getting better and better.

The one he blasted past Ginzberg was every bit as spectacular, though from closer range, as the one against Argentina in the Bicentennial Gold Cup last year — and *certainly far, far more* important.

Yankos, after a brief consultation with Crino, slotted his a 30-metre drive, from an impossible angle, around the Israeli "wall" and into the top left hand side corner of the net.

The goal so stunned the crowd and was greeted with such silence that SBS-TV's Les Murray and John Warren told me after the game that for a couple of seconds they had been convinced Yankos had hit the side-netting!

The goal changed the complexion of the game. Australia did not make the mistake of packing their defence to preserve the result, and the Israelis, clearly shaken, knew deep down they had lost their chance for the two points they so desperately needed.

Wally Savor copped a second yellow card in the 86th minute when the referee had no option but to send him off for a very late tackle on Ronnie Rosenthal. His first yellow card came in the 55th minute, also for a foul on Rosenthal, and Farina also got one, in the 34th minute, for a late tackle on Ohana.

But it was not a rough game. Actually, it was one of the tamest clashes between the traditional rivals who have now drawn eight of their 16 internationals.

There was too much at stake for the game to reach any great heights. It was typical World Cup stuff — not pretty to watch perhaps, but always gripping. And the huge crowd gave it that special "big match" atmosphere.

Australia's mental toughness was severely tested and they came through with flying colours.

It was never going to be easy to win in Tel Aviv, and a draw there in the context of the Oceania World Cup group is as good as a win.

Paul Wade, who came tantalisingly close to scoring with a snap left-footed shot in the 54th minute, was possibly Australia's best player with Yankos.

He brilliantly marked overlapping defender David Pizanti out of the game.

But it would be unfair to single out any one player. It was a magnificent team effort symbolised by the incredible amount of ground covered by Eddie Krncevic and Graham Arnold, who were up front one minute, then back lending a helping hand in the Australian box the net.

Israel's anticipated technical superiorty never quite materialised: the Socceroos matched them in that department and outplayed them as a team.

Their vaunted electric-heeled expatriates, with the exception of Rosenthal, were not a major factor and I thought their best players were Arvi Cohen, Sinai and the ever-alert Rosenthal.

ISRAEL: Bonni Ginzberg, Arvi Cohen, Nir Alon, Yehuda Amar, David Pizanti (Eli Cohen 81), Ephraim Davidi (Eli Drieks 78), Moshe Sinai, Nir Klinger, Eli Ohana, Ron Iluz, Ron Rosenthal.

AUSTRALIA: Jeff Olver, Alan Davidson, Charlie Yankos, Steve Calderan, Wally Savor (sent off 86), Paul Wade, Oscar Crino, Mike Petersen, Graham Arnold, Eddie Krncevic, Frank Farina (Graham Jennings 85).

Scorers: Eli Ohana 66m (penalty) for Israel; Charlie Yankos 72m for Australia.

Referee: Manfred Neumer (West Germany).

Crowd: 50,000 at Ramat Gan Stadium, Tel Aviv.

With the Socceroos

FROM PHIL MARTIN

NOT surprisingly, it was Eddie Krncevic who most interested the Israeli media when the Socceroos arrived from Athens.

The Anderlecht star, whose exploits are well-known in Soccer-crazy Israel, was literally besieged by reporters and TV cameras.

Frank Farina also attracted attention, but no-one showed much interest in skipper Charlie Yankos because the Israelis don't rate Greek Soccer very highly.

★★★

FRANK AROK is the man Israeli Soccer fans love to hate.

As always, he attracted heaps of media attention in Tel Aviv and was busy giving interviews all over the place — a far cry from Athens where the Socceroos were quite anonymous, hardly rating a mention in the local press.

★★★

TEAM doctor Siri Kanangra was forced to give goalkeeper Jeff Olver a needle to ease

the big fellow's discomfort when he contacted a virus which forced him to miss the final training session in Athens before the team flew out.

★★★

THE Socceroos achieved a 1-1 draw with bottom-of-the-table Greek Fisrt Division Apollon at Rizoupole Stadium — behind closed doors — last Thursday morning, Sydney time.

Played on an abominably sticky surface — which Arok called a "disgrace" — the match was meant to be nothing more than a stretch-out exercise.

The Australians played well within themselves and in the 22nd minute Steve Calderan looped a high ball to Graham Arnold, who headed the ball over his shoulder for Krncevic to score with a firm half-volley.

It was vintage Krncevic, and Arok described it as a "beautiful goal". And so it was — a typical half-chance converted into a spectacular goal.

★★★

A report in an Athens newspaper — the only one to give the Australians any space — claimed that Panathinaikos, who already have Australians Chris Kalantzis and Lou Hristodolou on their books, were also interested in Graham Arnold.

★★★

A STRIKE at Athens airport delayed the Aussies' flight to Tel Aviv by six hours.

The players did not arrive at their hotel before midnight.

Arok gave the team the next day off and serious training resumed on Friday — the Jewish Sabbath, when the whole country almost comes to a standstill.

★★★

UNLIKE Krncevic, who is a megastar at Anderlecht and has great bargaining power — and who is certain to move elsewhere next season anyhow — Frank Farina was worried his decision to put Australia first might affect his future at FC Brugge.

He was afraid he may be struggling to regain his first team spot when he returns from Tel Aviv because Brugge have five foreign players and only three can start in a league match.

Farina has been keeping Danish international Kenneth Brylle out of the first team, but the Dane got to play against Anderlecht last Sunday while Farina was away.

Krncevic believes Farina's fears are unfounded because he has been playing so well in his inaugural season in Belgium. "He'll walk back into the first team," was his prediction.

OCEANIA STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
Israel	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
New Zealand	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

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Ricoy goal saves Apia

BY LOU GAUTIER

A SPECTACULAR header by Pedro Ricoy in extra-time salvaged an unexpected point for Apia Leichhardt against Preston Makedonia at Lambert Park last Sunday.

Preston looked like having the game under wraps when Ricoy struck with a superb header from a Mark Brown cross.

It was only fitting it was Ricoy who saved Apia's hide as he was their best player with Darren Stewart.

Preston were no great shakes, but did enough to deserve to win until disaster struck.

Ironically, their loss of a point might well have been caused by John Markovski, who went tumbling onto the pitch every time he was nudged.

The time spent on him by the overworked Makedonia physio was added on by referee John McConnell — thus the extra-time during which Apia grabbed their equaliser.

Markovski is a first-rate prospect, who will undoubtedly go far in the game but he should curb his temper and not play to the crowd, which he incited by making a big production every time he was checked, illegally or not.

Preston opened the scoring towards the end of an uneventful first half.

A wicked 22-metre shot from the elegant Steve Smith was spectacularly parried by Tony Pezzano, too acrobatically, in fact, as the ball fell onto the path of Robert Markovac, who slotted it in from six metres.

Pezzano, like his Makedonia counterpart, Phil Traianedes, had precious little to do during the game, but, at least, the Apia captain had a few long-range shots fired in his direction, one of which almost caught him unprepared.

Three minutes before the end of regulation time, Zoran Tacevski let loose with a speculative 55-metre floater which Pezzano had to scramble in a most undignified manner to hold after glancing off the post.

The feeble standard of the football on display was attributed by both coaches to the absence of several key players.

Preston were best served by a tigerish George Jolevski, Smith and Tacevski.

English professional Bruce Halliday had a good debut for Apia at sweeper, but Ricoy was the player of the match.

Apia coach Mike Urukalo was a happy man after the game.

"This was a vital point for us. The draw will work wonders for our morale and will give the team a boost for Thursday's tough NSL Cup game against Sydney Croatia," he said.

Makedonia's soft-spoken Anton Doncevski was anything but happy with the outcome.

"We threw a point away," he lamented. "With Markovski and Markovac off the park, we lost control of the midfield in the latter stages and that was our downfall.

"We badly missed Warren Spink's uncanny flair for scoring goals and I was very unhappy with a couple of my players.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Pezzano, Stewart, M.Brown, O'Connor (Webber 45), Radosavljevic, Halliday, Bundalo (Ellam 64), Blagojevic, Murray, Kosmina, Ricoy.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes, Roodhouse, Jolevski, Jackson, Piculovski, Z. Tacevski, Zinni, Silkas, Smith, Markovski (Samardiza 87), Markovac (Soklevski 61).

Referee: J. McConnell. Crowd: 1769.

APIA's ENGLISH IMPORT "HAPPY"

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

BRUCE HALLIDAY, Apia's new English import, was surprised to find the standard in the NSL so high last Sunday when he made his debut against Preston at Lambert Park.

Halliday, 27, who has played more than 250 League games for Newcastle United and Bristol City, told ASW: "I was really surprised by the standard of play.

"The work rate and commitment is rather high here.

"I really found the match most enjoyable."

The Englishman, who is a utility defender or midfielder, was used in the sweeper's role by Apia coach Michael Urukalo on Sunday.

"Once he has settled in, Bruce will prove to be an asset for us with his professional experience," said Urukalo.

The slimly-built Halliday, was quick to pick up loose balls against Preston and his distribution down the flanks looked solid enough.

But Bruce also had the dubious distinction of collecting his first NSL yellow card for a soft foul on Preston left midfielder John Markovski.

★★★

APIA junior club was pleased when one of their products, John Cosentino, made a first team appearance against St George recently.

Nicknamed the "Mighty Midget", he is a fine full-back who previously spent some time in Italy on a scholarship, which helped hone his skills.

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DID YOU KNOW?

— That Australia's first World Cup coach was Tiko Jelisavcic; a Yugoslav who played centre-forward for Yugal in the early 60s?

'Tiko' coached Australia in 1965 when they were eliminated on a 9-2 aggregate by North Korea. Jelisavcic passed away in 1986 while coaching a team in Cancun, Mexico.

Georgie defying pundits

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

Heidelberg's Phil Stubbins tries the overhead flick past Sunshine's Chris Ketsakidis.
— Carmelo Bazzano Pix

BOTTOM-placed Heidelberg's mini-revival of three weeks, came to an abrupt end after going down 2-1 to a rock-solid Sunshine George Cross outfit in a competitive, but uninspiring clash at the Olympic Village last Sunday.

Georgie continued to defy the Soccer pundits who continually predict its demise with another typical display of grit, determination and hard work.

John Gardiner's charges sneaked into fourth spot on the NSL table, courtesy of some deferred clashes in round 10.

Whether it remains there at the business end of the season gives pundits more to ponder about!

Heidelberg had its chances to take the lead on several occasions in the first half but a combination of super goalkeeping by Sean Keogh and some near-misses cost it dearly.

As early as the seventh minute, midfielder Peter Treddinick pumped a long free-kick into the teeth of Georgie's goal, which was nervously smashed over the crossbar by defender Jeff Faulkner.

Raynes, always in the action early on, toyed with Georgie's defence wide on the left, then centred a delicate chip towards Lucchesi, who flicked a header to the far post where Phil Stubbins hit a rasping volley, but the acrobatic brilliance of Keogh denied the Bergers glory.

In the 38th minute, Cross broke the deadlock, helped by an uncharacteristic fumble by the usually sound Banovic.

Mark Lennon swung a corner to John Waddell, who headed into the far post where Shaun Parton sent a diving header straight at Banovic, who couldn't hold it and Paul Lewis, through sheer determination, forced the loose ball over the goal-line in between a group of defenders.

Lewis' goal inspired Sunshine to attack in numbers after the break and its forward thinking was rewarded in the 69th minute. A long throughball by John Waddell, deep in his own half, sent Paul Lewis on his way down the left.

He darted into the area and flashed a left foot drive which Banovic could only partially save and ever-dangerous striker Ossie Latif was on hand to tap home a 2-0 advantage.

The Bergers fought back with a goal in the 71st minute. John Stewart, wide on the left, crossed a long ball to gangling striker Angie Goutzioulis, who appeared offside, but he made no mistake with a clinical finish to score his first goal ever at NSL level.

HEIDELBERG: Banovic, Kanesoulis, Douglas, Scott, Ousalkas, Stewart, Treddinick (Alagiozidis 45), Stubbins, Goutzioulis, Lucchesi, Raynes.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh, Waddell, Taylor, Ketsakidis, Parton (Alevisos 60), Carter, Lewis, McLaren, Faulkner, Lennon, Latif.

Referee: John Santa Isabel. Crowd: 5312.

West End. Beer at its best.

National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	9	7	1	1	26	7	15
Preston	10	5	3	2	14	9	13
St George	8	5	2	1	10	6	12
Sunshine GC	10	4	3	3	11	9	11
Sydney Croatia	10	3	4	3	11	9	10
Sydney Croatia	8	4	2	2	6	4	10
Melbourne Croatia	9	3	3	3	15	14	9
Apia Leichhardt	9	3	3	3	11	13	9
Wollongong City	10	3	2	5	8	14	8
South Melbourne	8	3	1	4	11	9	7
Adelaide City	10	2	3	5	9	12	7
Blacktown City	8	3	1	4	10	20	7
Melbourne JUST	9	1	3	5	8	12	5
Heidelberg	10	2	1	7	8	20	5

Results

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (R. Ironside 2, T. Dakos) WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (J. Morlando) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 2283.

APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (P. Ricoy) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 1 (R. Markovac) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1785.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 ADELAIDE CITY 0 at Somers Road Stadium. Crowd: 2000.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 2 (P. Lewis, O. Latif) HEIDELBERG 1 (A. Goutzoulis) at Olympic Village. Crowd: 5213.

— Marconi v St George, Blacktown v Sydney Croatia, Melbourne JUST v South Melbourne Hellas deferred.

Top Scorers

ZLATKO NASTEVSKI	Marconi	9
IVAN KELIC	Melbourne Croatia	8
FRED DE JONG	Marconi	5
OSSIE LATIF	Sunshine GC	5
SCOTT OLLERENSHAW	St George	5
WARREN SPINK	Preston Makedonia	5
IAN GRAY	Marconi	4
JOHN MARKOVSKI	Preston Makedonia	4

Crowds

— With four Round 9 and three Round 10 games deferred, total and average attendances are meaningless. They will be updated as they are played and will be published when the postponed matches have been held.

GEORGE CROSS

BACK L to R: Chris Hasler, Paul Lewis, Mark Lennon, Ossie Latif, S Parton, Sean Keogh, Andrew Marth, Aki Kotzamichalis, John Waddell, Chris Ketsakides.
FRONT: George Alevisos, Gary Hasler, Les Carter, Chris Taylor, Jeff Faulkner, John Campbelj, Den McLaren.

Sunshine's Les Carter keeps a close watch on Heidelberg's Peter Tredinnick.
Pix by Carmelo Bazzano

Olympic win one at last

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC, after going six matches without a win, relied on a desperate experiment to score the goals that earnt them a 3-1 victory over a luckless Wollongong City at St George Stadium last Friday evening.

Although Olympic dominated proceedings in the first half, it was in fact Wollongong who scored to have the scoreboard showing the Wolves leading 1-0 at half-time.

Olympic coach Eddie Thomson, desperate for goals over recent weeks, made a bold experiment by pushing former Kiwi international centre-back Robbie Ironside up into a striker's role.

Thomson told ASW: "It was about time we got some goals. We were very conservative and didn't play attractive Soccer but the main thing is that we finally scored the goals to win the game.

"We had great chances, but missed Jason Polak badly in the midfield."

The experiment paid dividends as Ironside nailed two goals in the second half to earn both League points for Olympic.

As early as in the 13th minute, Wollongong City opened the score when centre-back Jock Morlando scored with a 12-metre lob, following a poor clearance by an Olympic defender.

Wollongong goalkeeper Warwick Young twice thwarted goal chances in the 53rd minute from successive shots by Marshall Soper and Mike McGarry.

But from the ensuing corner slung in from the right by McGarry, sweeper Tony Dakos scored the equaliser with a neat header.

A rough tackle by stocky midfielder David Skeen on Olympic's little Tommy Pontidas inside Wollongong's box could have resulted in a penalty, but referee Jim Reeves would not be moved.

Ironside scored the first of his two goals in the 63rd minute when in a determined gallop on the right, he broke through tackles by Ray Vlietstra and Morlando before unleashing a rocketing angled drive into the net to score just inside the far post.

Almost right on full-time, Ironside scored again when substitute striker, Alistair Edwards, whipped in a fine cross from the left.

The ball hit midfielder Gary Phillips and flew to Ironside, who headed into the net from only five metres out.

Ironside said after the match: "This was my first NSL game as a striker and I am more pleased the team won than scoring two goals myself. I could have had a hat-trick but I hit the cross-bar."

Ironside last played as a striker when he was at high school.

Meanwhile, a dejected Wollongong coach, John Fleming, told ASW: "I thought we were robbed as they struggled for most of the match. We played better but lack quality NSL players.

"We were without Kotomanidis and Brodnik and next week we will be without Easthorpe. Losing David Ratcliffe was a big blow for our team this season."

Best for Wollongong were Brian Cokely, Young and teenager John Danzo, whilst Olympic were best served by Ironside, Phillips and Dakos.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Barrett, Bernal, Dakos, Koch, McGarry (Lee 61), Raskopoulos, Pontidas, Phillips, Soper (Edwards 84), Ironside.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Young, Giraldi, Vlietstra, Morlando, Hollifield, Stefanovski, Skeen, Cokely, Crainie, Danzo, Easthorpe.

Referee: J.Reeves. Crowd: 2283.

NSL CUP

Marconi home by a whisker

BY KEITH GILMOUR

MARCONI managed to subdue Blactown City 2-1 in their first round NSL Cup tie at Marconi Stadium on Saturday night, but the bald result tells little of the story.

The league champions were forced to fight every inch of the way, going a goal behind and then giving a sigh of relief when Zlatko Arambasic's shot, which could have put the Demons two ahead, rapped the base of the post before coming free.

Marconi went close so often in the first half but the Demons scored in the 49th minute when Zlatko Arambasic centred and Lawrie McKinna headed home between a split defence.

GERRY GOMEZ

Peter Katholos cracked a beauty in the 74th minute from 25 metres out. It was his first goal of the season, and was well worth waiting for.

Marconi put untold pressure on Blacktown as David Lowe took charge of proceedings, but Bill Londos was in splendid form and blocked three tremendous shots in the space of four minutes.

DAVID LOWE

It as a matter of justice when Lowe goaled from a Gerry Gomez pass five minutes into injury time for Marconi's hard-fought 2-1 win.

MARCONI: Hughes, Carter, de Marigny, Gomez, Wheatley, Gray (Colagiuri 46m), McCulloch, Nastevski, de Jong, Katholos, Lowe.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Londos, L.Sterrey, G.Sterrey, Reynolds, Northam, Odzakov, Naumov (Gibson 72m), Maier, McKinna, Arambasic, van Bierk (Divljak 106m).

A one on one situation when the Croatias met in Melbourne. Branko Milosevic (left) receives a challenge from Sydney's Ivan Petkovic.
Photo: CARMELO BAZZANO

Low key clash at Somers Street

BY GREG BLAKE

IT was difficult to say which aspect of the game disappointed most as Adelaide City struggled to a scoreless draw at Melbourne Croatia's impressive new ground on Sunday.

Adelaide City, despite boasting eight of its premiership line-up of 1986 still on board, was awful.

City is renowned for its pleasing style and for the laconic ease with which it strokes the ball around, even away from home.

It did that, but that's about all Zoran Matic's team did do and it ended Sunday's 90 minutes having not tested Croatia's rookie keeper Joe Rados on one single occasion.

In fact, the kid rarely even touched the ball.

Melbourne Croatia — despite an impressive home debut by Zeljko Adzic — was hardly better than the opposition.

Adzic, Joe Biskic, Branko Milosevic and one or two others were at least prepared to try the half-chances and long-range shots, but it was never enough on a day of defensive domination at both ends.

The Melbourne team showed dazzling touch at times but, as has been that team's problem for some time, players start to get lazy and the tendency is to give the ball away too easily.

Sunday's hardly stirring contest (one patron was actually seen fast asleep in the member's stand) was memorable if only for the debut of Adzic.

The 23-year-old midfielder joined Croatia from Canadian outfit Hamilton Steelers only last week.

If his efforts on Sunday are any indication he'll be worth the Melbourne club's outlay.

Biskic, with a shot on the run, Ivan Kelic, with a header over the bar, and Milosevic's long-range effort were the highlights of a dour second half which never threatened to spark into life.

Adelaide City got the point it probably came for but on that performance it will lose games and goodwill very quickly.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Rados, Donnelly, Talajic, Selemidis, Cannell, Duzel (Opasinis 84), Milosevic, Biskic, Caleta (Awaritefe 58), Adzic, Kelic.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zablca, Shillabeer, Tobin, Ivanovich Flounders, Melta, Santrac, Villani, Mullen, Maxwell, Vial (Clarkson 72).

Referee: D. Voutsinis. Crowd: 2000.

Theo Selemidis

NSL ACTION EVERY SUNDAY
AT 5.00PM

The Big Match

ST GEORGE v SYDNEY OLYMPIC
MELBOURNE CROATIA v HEIDELBERG
SOUTH MELBOURNE v PRESTON

ABC-TV

PRESENTED BY JOHN BELL

Brusasco replies over 'crackdown on hooliganism'

AUSTRALIAN Soccer Federation chairman Ian Brusasco says NSW Sports Minister Bob Rowland Smith has overreacted by calling for the sport to be "Australianised".

Ian Brusasco

"Soccer has been going for 109 years in Australia and was well established long before the post-war migration boom," said the Australian-born Soccer leader.

"I think there are a lot of people who try to portray us as an ethnic sport.

"Because my name is Brusasco and not Smith or Jones and if I play Soccer, I'm an ethnic but if it's Campese and play rugby I'm acceptable as an Australian.

"There are many ethnic names in rugby league and Australian rules which seem to be acceptable, but it's a different matter with Soccer.

"I would be very happy to have talks with the Minister to find out what he wants with Australian Soccer."

The Minister has announced a crackdown on hooliganism after meeting with officials from all four football codes and a representative of the NSW police in Sydney.

Mr Smith said there would be a media campaign to publicise the penalties for offenders and that the Government will start a SportsWatch scheme similar to Neighbourhood Watch.

In addition, there will be an attempt to dissuade people from bringing national flags to sports events, particularly Soccer.

"We believe that now perhaps is the time to strike again and do everything we can to Australianise the sport," said Mr Smith.

He said Soccer caused him particular concern because of the nationalistic approach by people bringing their problems to a sporting arena.

"We've tried to get rid of ethnic names in clubs in Queensland and it didn't work," said Brusasco.

"I would prefer to see people come to sport for the sake of sport and not with any national problem or a problem which existed in the country of their previous origin.

"We've asked people to wave Australian flags at games. We see the boxing kangaroo and the Australian flag being waved at the Olympics and in other places because we're proud of our country.

"I don't know what the Minister really means when he says he wants flag-waving stopped. But on hooligans, I hope the Government brings the full force of the law down on any hooligans in our sport.

"Soccer will give him full co-operation."

— by Ted Simmons of AAP

Focus on

Michael McGarry

PLAYER PROFILE

SYDNEY OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB

CLUB: Sydney Olympic
NAME: Michael Daniel McGarry
DATE OF BIRTH: 17/5/65
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Mosgiel, Dunedin City
MARITAL STATUS: Married to Robyn
OCCUPATION: Secondary school teacher
NICKNAME: Mick
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Diego Maradona
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: My next opponent!
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My first game for New Zealand against Fiji.
OWN MAGIC MOMENT IN SOCCER: Scoring in the same game.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Last year's Olympic qualifying rounds
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Tennis, swimming.
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: All sports programs.
FAVOURITE READING: Robert Ludlum.
FAVOURITE MUSIC: U2, George Thorogood.
FAVOURITE FOOD: Fish, steak and chips.
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Steve Martin, Meryl Streep.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON MY CAREER: My father.
WHAT YOU DON'T LIKE ABOUT SOCCER: Playing badly and letting the team down.
SUPERSTITIONS: None
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Nothing special.
HONOURS: NZ Young Player of the Year 1983, NZ Player of the Year 1988, Dunedin City Player of the Year 1983, 1985, Otago Player of the Year 1983, 1985. 28 caps for New Zealand.
PLAYER TO WATCH OUT FOR THIS SEASON: "Goalscoring sensation" Robert Ironside.
PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET: Robert Ironside's hairdresser.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

AWSA

DALYS CARMODY

Maureen Jacobsen NZ midfielder

JANINE RIDDINGTON

Wendy Sharpe NZ midfielder

CHINESE TAIPEI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION — CHINESE MULAN

Team Officials:

Chen, Ding-Shyong	Tour Leader
Chen, I-Ping	Advisor
Chao, Chau	Secretary
Shiao, Yung-Fu	Coach
Chao, Jui-Jung	Assistant Coach
Lee, Chun-Mei	Administrator
Wang, Yu-Hsie	Referee

To be selected from:

2. Yen, Chun-Mei	Def.
4. Chen, Yueh-Mei	For.
5. Wu, Mei-Shiang	Def.
6. Lee, Shu-Ping	Mid.
7. Chu, Show-Fang	Mid.
8. Shien, Su-Jean	For.
9. Wu, Wang-Wang	For.
10. Huang, Yu-Chuan	For.
11. Luo, Tsae-Fung	Mid.
12. Chen, Yu-Ting	Mid.
13. Chen, Pao-Tsai	Mid.
17. Chu, Win-Ju	Mid.
18. Haung, Shu-Fung	GK
19. Lu, Yu-Chuan	For.
21. Hsu, Chia-Cheng	Def.
22. Yen, She-Chu	Mid.
24. Chen, Shwu-Ju	Def.
25. Lin, Mei-Jyh	Def.
27. Lo, Chu-Yin	SW
28. Cheng, Shu-Ling	GK
29. Shien, Li-Chuan	Def.

Team Colours — blue, red and white.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF INDIA

To be selected from:

Sundari Devi	GK
Poonam Srivastava	GK
Vinodni P.P.	GK
R.K. Amusana	Def.
Sushila Devi	Def.
Nazima Begum	Def.
Sushma Das	Def.
Sajitha P.	Def.
Reeta V.K.	Def.
Shweta Mukherji	Def.
T. Latha	Def.
Dilraj Kaur	Def.
Reejha V.K.	Mid.
Himanshu Solankhi	Mid.
Roma Devi	Mid.
Kuntala Ghosh	Mid.
Kalavati Pillai	Mid.
Raj Rani	Mid.
Soona K.	For.
Usha Kumari	For.
Ommna Krishnan	For.
Shukla Dutta	For.
Chaitali Ker	For.
Meena Shangde	For.
Chaina Majumder	For.
Satender Kaur	For.
Sonali Baidya	For.
Chaoba Devi	For.

BRISBANE MARCH 26/APRIL 1

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Team Officials:

Lesley Boomer	Tour Leader
Jenny Lee	Administrator
Dave Boardman	Coach
Nora Watkins	Assistant Coach

The Team:

1. Leslie King	GK
2. Amanda Crawford	F
3. Vivienne Robertson	D
4. Alison Grant	M
5. Wendi Henderson	F
6. Wendy Sharpe	F
7. Lesley Letcher	F
8. Monique Van de Elzen	M
9. Maureen Jacobson	M
10. Debbie Pullen	M
11. Kim Nye	D
12. Cinnamon Chaney	D
13. Pauline Sullivan	D
14. Jane Simpson	M
15. Anne Smith	GK
16. Julia Campbell	D

Team colours — white

NZ midfielder, Alison Grant

THIRD WOMENS OCEANIA CUP

PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOTBALL (SOCCER) ASSOCIATION

Team Officials:

Kawiap Danomira	Manager
Noel Poi Vaia	Coach
Changol Pangiau	Assistant Coach
Augustine Pui	Official

To be selected from:

1. Ikanau Matangiau
2. Rose Suwae
3. Singeng Bosuke
4. Pansy Sawan
5. Betty Tujo
6. Rhoda Watson
7. Bospidik Posman
8. Theresa Apiro
9. Tabitha Suwae
10. Anna Seto
11. Kay Ella
12. Mary Magaru
13. Monica Critchley
14. Joycelene Lolowa
15. Urisila Wanara
16. Geraldine Eka
17. Helen Mapun
18. Rose Bukoya
19. Agnes Juwana
20. Edith Ernest
21. Fay Taukum
22. Anne Bonny

Team colours — Red and Black

New Zealand coach, Dave Boardman

Third Womens Oceania Cup 1989

A Special Souvenir Feature with stories by Graham Cooke

TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
12.15pm: Opening ceremony conducted by Senator Margaret Reynolds, the Federal Minister for Local Government and Minister assisting the Prime Minister on the status of women. Also in attendance will be the president of the AWSA and president of Oceania, Elaine Watson, and the president of the ASF, Ian Brusasco.
2.15pm: New Zealand v Australia Green
4.00pm: Australia Gold v Papua New Guinea
6.15pm: Chinese Taipei v India

MONDAY, MARCH 27
10.45am: Australia Green v Australia Gold
12.30pm: India v New Zealand
2.15pm: Papua New Guinea v Chinese Taipei

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
9.00am: Australia Gold v India
10.45am: New Zealand v Chinese Taipei
12.30pm: Australia Green v Papua New Guinea
3.30pm: Civic reception

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
Oceania Women's Football Confederation Congress — all day Thursday, March 30.
2.15pm: Papua New Guinea v New Zealand
4.00pm: Chinese Taipei v Australia Gold
6.15pm: India v Australia Green

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
12.30pm: Australia Gold v New Zealand
2.15pm: India v Papua New Guinea
4.00pm: Australia Green v Chinese Taipei

SATURDAY, APRIL 1
12.30pm: Third place play-off
2.30pm: Final

Historically speaking

WHEN Australia Green and New Zealand kick off in the opening match of the Third Oceania Cup in Brisbane on Sunday, women's Soccer will have returned to the sport's representative cradle.

There may have been earlier games than the North Brisbane v South Brisbane fixture played at the city's cricket ground on September 24, 1921 but if so, the records have been lost.

And Oceania Cup organisers will be happy indeed if any crowd during the week of competition approaches the 10,000 who packed in to see that game 68 years ago.

According to a report in the SPORTS REFEREE magazine of the time, the spectators believed they had got their money's worth with cries of "put the ladies on the field again" during the men's match which followed North Brisbane's 2-0 win over Souths.

The report indicated that the kicking by Miss Jean Campbell was a feature of the game as she "repeatedly hoisted the ball back to the centre line," while fine work was carried out by Miss Wenlock "who formerly played Soccer in England."

Miss Breege put Norths in front just before half time, and in the second half Miss Wenlock was judged to have infringed in the penalty area and a kick was awarded although "some of the Southern ladies apparently did not consider the penalty justified." Miss Campbell duly scored.

The unknown author of the report allowed himself the criticism that the ladies' heading was not up to standard.

"The ladies today had their short-cropped hair covered with tam-o'-shanters, and doubtless with greater experience there will be greater head work with the sphere in the course of time."

Another article indicated that the match had been made up of women drawn from three clubs — Latrobe, Brisbane City and Brisbane Ladies — and that organised women's Soccer in the city was then two months old with 60 active players.

AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL RECORD

1978]	World Invitational		7th (13)
1984]	Football Tournaments	: Taiwan	6th (11)
1987]			6th (10)
1979	3 tests v New Zealand	: Australia	draw
1980	3 tests v New Zealand	: New Zealand	winners
1981	Aust. Provincial tour	: New Zealand	winners
1983	Royal Hawaiian tour	: Hawaii	winners
1983	1st Oceania Cup	: Noumea	runners-up
1984	Xian Tournament	: China	runners-up
1986	2nd Oceania Cup	: New Zealand	runners-up
1988	FIFA World Inter.	: China	quarter finalists

AUSTRALIAN SQUADS — 1989 3RD OCEANIA CUP

AUSTRALIA A

NAME	D.O.B.	POS.&	STATE	NATIONAL C'SHIPS	INTER-NATIONALS
KERRY MILLMAN	4.9.64	MID.	QLD	9	36
JOANNE MILLMAN	18.8.61	DEF.	QLD	10	35
LEANNE PRIESTLEY	27.12.63	STR.	QLD	9	18
KAREN MENZIES	4.10.62	M/S	NNSW	10	8
JULIE MURRAY	28.4.70	MID.	ACT	9	8
MOYA DODD	6.2.63	M/S.	SA	5	5
ANISSA TANN	10.10.67	DEF.	NSW	3	4
DEBBIE NICHOLS	1.10.64	MID.	VIC	6	4
CAROL VINSON	31.10.62	STR.	NSW	7	4
JANINE RIDDINGTON	28.8.63	STR.	NSW	4	4
LISA VAN DORP	19.8.70	DEF.	NSW	4	6 YTH
GAIL PACE	17.8.69	STR.	SA	3	5 YTH
DEBRA BONSHORE	19.8.67	GK.	NNSW	4	1
TANYA DYER	9.1.70	DEF.	NT	7	-
KAREN HARRIS	7.11.69	DEF.	SA	4	-
KRISTINE JAMES	5.7.70	STR	NSW	5	-
DALYS CARMODY	13.7.64	STR	NSW	2	-
TRACEY WHEELER	26.9.67	GK.	NSW	3	-
LINDA HUGHES	9.6.68	STR	NNSW	3	-

AUSTRALIA B

MICHELLE SAYWERS	25.10.60	DEF.	QLD	13	12
JANE OAKLEY	25.6.66	STR.	VIC	6	8
KERRIE ROWE	4.1.69	STR.	QLD	6	5 YTH
RAEANNE DOWER	12.3.70	DEF.	QLD	9	1 YTH
JODI JARMAN	7.5.71	STR.	QLD	4	-
NICOLE GREEN	10.5.70	STR.	N.T.	4	1 YTH
ANGELA IANNOTTA	22.3.71	STR.	ACT	4	1 YTH
MARIA DOYLE	3.7.62	MID.	SA	2	-
NICOLE KOMOROSKI	8.5.69	STR.	NSW	4	-
NELLA BERTONCINI	21.11.69	STR.	QLD	1	1 YTH
LEANNE O'BRIEN	22.11.69	DEF.	NSW	1	1 YTH
SARA KING	25.4.72	GK.	ACT	4	1 YTH
KIM SCHAEFER	11.11.69	GK.	NSW	2	1 YTH
SUSAN CLAYTON	12.3.64	GK.	QLD	5	1

COACH AUSTRALIA A — JOHN DOYLE
COACH AUSTRALIA B — STEVE DARBY
ASSISTANT COACH — MICK HOAR
MANAGER AUSTRALIA A — BETTY HOAR
MANAGER AUSTRALIA B — DORIS HADDOCK
AUSTRALIAN DOCTOR — KIERAN FALLON
AUSTRALIAN PHYSIO — KEITH ASHFORD

Big task for Gold side

WHEN the ACT's Steve Darby accepted the position as national youth coach of the Australian Women's Soccer Association the last thing he expected was to have 28-year-olds in his side.

But that's the way it is as the AWSA decided to have two Australian open-age teams in the Oceania Cup series, rather than senior and youth as had been first thought.

And Darby, one of the most thoughtful and flexible coaches in the country, doesn't mind.

Gail Pace

As boss of Australian Gold, in effect the B team, he has no illusions about his task. "We have nothing to lose and our job is to go out there and beat Chinese Taipei and New Zealand to make the path for the first team as uncomplicated as possible.

"It will be a waste of time to be defensive-minded. In such a short tournament it is best to go out there and give it your best shot, score early and build on the enthusiasm."

Kerrie Rowe

He would be using this week's training camp in Brisbane for some "solid work . . . plenty of eight-a-side games, shadow play to get the team functioning and, hopefully, matches against weaker teams to reinforce formation and set-pieces.

"It's too late by then for basic skills and fitness . . . It will all go down to team cohesion."

Darby is no stranger to women's Soccer, having gone to China in 1985 as assistant to the then national coach, Jim Selby.

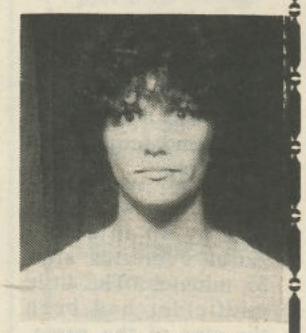
"It was an an excellent side with players like Julie Dolan and Kim Lembryk at their peak," he said.

He is a fan of the women's game and is ever ready to offer constructive criticism.

He added: "It's strength lies in the willingness of players to learn and to stick to team plans and formations.

"The general areas of weakness are fitness and goalkeeping."

However, he believed ACT keeper Sara King, who will be in his squad, "has the potential to be top quality."



Michelle Sawyers

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Australia rebuilding

THERE will be a new-look to the two Australian sides competing in the Oceania Tournament next week — and head coach John Doyle hopes that it will also signal the emergence of a new breed of player.

"I know that the players I have selected are not as skilful as some of those which have represented Australia in the past," he said.

"And there may well be more naturally gifted people who I have left out.

Kerry Millman

Julie Murray

"But I have chosen them for their mental and emotional toughness — for their ability to perform under pressure and to die for their team.

"That quality has been missing in some individuals in the past.

"It found us out in the pilot World Cup in China last year where we started well but could not sustain the effort needed to meet a succession of quality team.

"The competitiveness and skill levels we faced were quite unexpected and some players were devastated."

He acknowledged that Australia in 1989 had been caught in a rebuilding period. "Some of the great players who have served the team well in the past are no longer available for a variety of reasons — people like Julie Dolan, Kim Lembryk, Sue Monteith and Renaye Iserief.

Leanne Priestly

"We are at the end of an era. The first generation of women internationals is passing and we must look to new names on which to build our reputation."

Names such as Victorian midfielder Debbie Nichols, defender Anissa Tann from NSW, strikers Janine Riddington and Carol Vinson, with a leavening of more experienced players like Kerry and Joanne Millman from Queensland — sisters with 71 international appearances between them.

He had high hopes of the ACT's Julie Murray, already a veteran of eight international appearances a month short of her 19th birthday. "She did not play well in the national championships in Newcastle last year, but *somehow she always* raises her game for Australia."

Anissa Tann

Of the opposition: "Chinese Taipei will be frightening. Everything about their play is so precise, and usually just a little too fast for the opposition ever to be comfortable. We must settle quickly and learn to withstand that pace.

"New Zealand will pose different problems. The side they have been building for several seasons now is coming to fruition and they are desperate to beat us.

"I will not say I am entirely happy with the development of the squad. But the Oceania Cup is now and we can't afford to wait."

John Doyle
Coach

AUSTRALIAN coach John Doyle is extremely ambitious to have the national team competing in the first Women's World Cup.

N.S.W.

FIRST DIVISION with ALEX VESIC

CRAIG Carter (Newcastle) is beaten by Greg Brown (Melita) in their recent NSW Challenge Cup Match.

Macedonia's revenge

WOLLONGONG Macedonia scraped home 1-0 against Rockdale Ilinden at Kelly Park last Sunday but failed to stamp its authority before a solid crowd of some 1200.

In the opening period Macedonia threw everything but the kitchen sink at the visitors and came ever so close to notching the opening goal.

Brett Thornthwaite made the most of some sloppy Ilinden defence after five minutes, an effort repeated by Graeme Fletcher five minutes later, but their shots sailed past the posts.

Then came a superb move on the right flank with Thornthwaite and Paul Kay exchanging passes for Thorthwaite to send in a low cross and John McKie was at the end of it to stab the ball through a maze of legs past Keith Warren.

Ilinden came back, inspired by a great effort by Zlatko Markovski, easily the best player on the park.

The locals celebrated their second goal after 48 minutes of play.

Fletcher's shot from an acute angle appeared to hit the sidenetting before settling inside the goal.

Referee Manny Loupis, away from the action, awarded a goal but, after some furious complaints by the visitors and an intervention by the linesman, the goal was cancelled.

Rockdale appeared to find another gear in the second period and were unlucky not to take at least one point as Markovski and Mickovski made some inroads against the strong Wollongong midfield.

Buchanan, Kay and Lerond were given yellow cards as play deteriorated midway through the second period, with Wollongong having a clear chance close to the end of the game.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Burchmore, Slaveski, Shaw, Mears, Cavanah, Kay, Sandy, Thornthwaite, Bradley, Fletcher, McKie.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN: Warren, Segreto, McAusland, Buchanan, O'Donnell, Mickovski (Saccialotto 62'), Watson, Markovski, Porter, Dounis, Genovese.

Deflections sink gutsy Sutherland

POLONIA made it three wins in a row against Sutherland in the League with a narrow 2-1 victory over its arch-rival at Seymour Shaw Park last Sunday.

You can't win football games without a bit of luck and Polonia had its share last weekend, getting a 'helping hand' via deflections that deceived Sutherland goalkeeper Paul Dart.

Lesek Kulwicki, Polonia's free-kick specialist, struck home in the 51st minute but his shot came off the wall to nest behind Dart for the opening Polonia goal.

Then came David Beamer with his effort in the 78th minute. Robbie Sellar attempted to cut the drive by the Polonia youngster but only managed to deceive his own keeper.

Sutherland came back strongly in the closing stages and pulled one back in the 89th minute through Paul McFadden, but the same player could have scored again in injury-time, but his shot cleared the crossbar.

The visitors adjusted to the wet weather football better than the home team and seldom allowed Sutherland to create openings, with Richard Lasek and Quean Chou in full command in defence for Polonia.

The Sharks, 'toothless' since their fine win over Wollongong Macedonia, are experiencing a form slump, probably due to their all-out effort and superb showing in the Challenge Cup.

On the other hand, the visitors played 'percentage' football on a wet pitch, always believing that one goal would decide the issue.

SUTHERLAND: Dart, Edmonds, Sellar, Terry, Nelson, R.O'Shea, Hutchison (Lardis), Sharpe, Cotton (Hill), McFadden, Parsons.

POLONIA: Thurlow, Chou, Lasek, Robertson, M.Pratt, Anderson, Kulwicki, C.Thompson, Beamer (O.Gomez), Janduda, D.Pratt (Caruso).

Results, table

Inter Monaro 0 Warringah Freshwater 1 (Etherington), Sutherland 1 (McFadden) Polonia 2 (Kulwicki, Beamer), Uruguay Penrith 0 Melita Eagles 2 (Versi, Brown), Canberra Croatia 1 (Perinovic) Newcastle Austral 0, Avala 0 Canterbury 1 (Parison), Wollongong Macedonia 1 (McKie) Rockdale Ilinden 0

1. MELITA EAGLES	1	1	0	0	2-0	2
2. POLONIA	1	1	0	0	2-1	2
3. WARR.FRESHWATER	1	1	0	0	1-0	2
4. W'GONG MACEDONIA	1	1	0	0	1-0	2
5. CANTERBURY	1	1	0	0	1-0	2
6. CANBERRA CROATIA	1	1	0	0	1-0	2
7. SUTHERLAND	1	0	0	1	1-2	0
8. INTER MONARO	1	0	0	1	0-1	0
9. ROCK. ILINDEN	1	0	0	1	0-1	0
10. AVALA	1	0	0	1	0-1	0
11. NEWCASTLE	1	0	0	1	0-1	0
12. URUGUAY PENRITH	1	0	0	1	0-2	0

FRESHWATER WIN 1-0

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE problems which have dogged Inter Monaro through the pre-season competition look like following it into the NSW State League after its 1-0 loss to Warringah Freshwater at the Marco Polo Ground last Saturday.

Number one is the lack of scoring potential. On Saturday it got plenty of ball forward, and Craig Alchin especially was on the end of quite a lot of it, but the finishing was less than inspired.

Alchin was in action in the second minute — a diving header which Dragan Pupovac gathered. Then Baz Giampaolo broke clear but his attempted chip of the goalkeeper lacked urgency and Pupovac was able to claw the ball down.

An excellently worked free-kick should have brought the home side a goal. Giampaolo ran over the top of the ball and got behind the wall in time to take the lob from Angelo Ambrosino, but Popovac had anticipated well and saved at close range.

With 70 minutes gone, Warringah's former Canberra City player Hilton Phillips beat Bruno Monterosso on the right and crossed to where, incredibly, two Freshwater forwards had been left to their own devices, a metre off the goal-line.

It was really a toss-up as to who would put the ball past a despairing Manuel Notaris, and the honour fell to Ross Etherington.

INTER MONARO: Notaris, T. Popovich, Santolin, Monterosso, Titiles, Carbone, Djordjeski (Janko 81), N. Popovich (Brennan 72), Alchin, Ambrosino, Giampaolo.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Pupovac, Pierce, Knight, McCue, Dean, Sharpe, Campbell, Etherington, Phillips, Cimorosti (Perissee 54), Stuart (Sutherland 81).

Referee: R. Marshall.
Crowd: 217.

Parison strikes!

TONY Parison, down from the dizzy heights of the NSL, recently transfered from APIA Leichhardt, immediately repaid his new bosses with a goal that decided the issue at Knight Park as Canterbury scrambled to a 1-0 win over Avala.

His bustling run in the 62nd minute took him past the despairing tackle of Paul Qaurmby and his rifled shot gave Greg Woodhouse no chance at all.

And that was the ball game.

Avala, struggling with ground problems and involved in a row with their local council over their dressing rooms at the Serbian Centre, had little to cheer about as its best player, Miodrag Radovic, got his marching orders in the 50th minute with the game delicately poised at 0-0.

From then on, it was a struggle for the 10-man Avala team to do anything but hold out for a draw.

Radovic was red-carded in the 50th, Avala fought back in the closing stages, then came another dismissal, this time in the 90th minute when Plataniotis of Canterbury had to leave the field after an altercation with an Avala player.

AVALA: Woodhouse, Quarmby, Henderson, Ashton, Brockbank, Berry, Nastoski, Fitzharris, Menviello, Radovic (sent off 50th), Lovan (Benitez 55th).

CANTERBURY: Hummell, Papayothis, Pavlovic, Plataniotis (sent off 89th), Radman, Godzik, Zervas, Kalogeras, Parison, Hatzis, Spanoudakis.

Big crowd in Canberra

BY GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA Croatia attracted its largest crowd since the NSL days when it beat Newcastle Austral 1-0 at Deakin Oval on Sunday, but apart from the first half-hour, the quality was not sufficient to keep the 1691 spectators entertained.

Coach Jimmy Shoulder said afterwards that he was pleased to get the points against a side he considered to be one of the best in the league but added there had been a lack of commonsense in his team's play.

The team was unsettled by an injury to Zoran Protezina after 35 minutes. The little midfielder had been the star of the game, scoring the all-important goal, going close on a couple of other occasions, and generally doing the hard work from which those around him benefitted.

After 14 minutes, Pratezina sent Alan Reis away on the left, it seemed the striker might have misjudged the slope of the Deakin Oval ground when his cross to Marko Perinovic slowed up in the penalty area.

Instead, the ball found Pratezina, who flicked it on to Perinovic, received it back and slotted it home.

Croatia still had chances to increase the lead, none better than a powerful drive from Matring which a scrambling Carter was happy to see past the upright.

CANBERRA CROATIA: Gunning, Matring, Mazis, Janna, Young, Ciavinic, Sermanni, Pratezina (Dukic 37), Perinovic, Reis, Lemezina.

NEWCASTLE: Carter, Bowen, Jones, Achurch, Boogard, Devon, Bland, Elphick, Bailey, Gaimakamis (Holden 77), Tonks, (McWhirter 60).

Referee: Dave Willocks.
Crowd: 1691.

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NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE LEAGUE 1ST DIVISION		
Inter Monaro v Warringah	0-1	1-1
Wollongong Mac. v Rockdale	1-0	2-0
Sutherland Shire v Polonia	1-2	1-0
Avala v Canterbury	0-1	4-0
Canberra Croatia v Newcastle	1-0	4-0
Penrith v Melita Eagles	0-2	0-3
STATE LEAGUE 2ND DIVISION		
Bathurst v Campbelltown	0-3	0-0
Bankstown v Dulwich Hill	0-2	0-1
Granville Chile v SSC Yugal	0-3	0-0
Manly W'gah v Sydney Macedonia	0-2	4-1
Mount Druitt v Waverley SC	wash out	wash out
North Shore Utd v Gladesville	1-2	0-1
Fairy Meadow v Orange Waratah	3-1	0-3
FEDERATION LEAGUE THREE		
Uni of NSW v Hills Shire	2-1	1-5
Rooty Hill W/Utd v Concordia	2-3	3-5
Rosebery Portugal v Port Hacking	2-0	9-0
Mt Pritchard v Canterbury Dist.	4-1	3-1
Moorebank L'pool v Central Coast	0-1	1-6
Blacktown Utd v Southern Districts	wash out	wash out
FEDERATION LEAGUE FOUR		
Hajduk v Fairfield	wash out	wash out
Transandinos v N Ryde	0-5	1-1
Syd Croatia v Cyprus	1-3	0-2
Eastwood v Spanish	wash out	wash out
Padstow v Petersham	1-4	2-0
Nineveh v Hawkesbury	1-3	2-4
FEDERATION LEAGUE SIX		
Abruzzi v Belmore Herc	0-7	0-2
Prospect v Lithgow	wash out	wash out
Cobreloa v GNS Utd	1-2	2-3
Alexander v Syd Lebanon	7-6	14-1
Ashour v Maccabi	3-1	0-5
Liverpool C v West Dist H	2-4	1-2
FEDERATION LEAGUE SEVEN		
A.S. Noantriu v Aust. Romanian	2-1	4-0
Pagewood v Assyrian	1-0	1-2
Liverpool v Balmain	2-5	5-0
Lemnos v Fofolar	3-1	2-0
St Josephs v Korean	3-1	1-0

Chopin Park derby

POLONIA against Wollongong Macedonia at Chopin Park should be the game of the round on Sunday.

The subtle skills of Pavel Janduda and Lesek Kulwicki will be pitted against those of Kenny Slaveski and Graeme Fletcher.

McKie v Lasek, Fletcher v Chou, an interesting battle at one end with Janduda having to cope with Paul Mears at the other.

The game will be decided in midfield and perhaps the visitors could have too many guns for Polonia. Kay, Cavanah, Sandy and Bradley might be just a trifle too much to handle.

But if Zlatko Markovski managed to tarnish some of the reputation of the highly fancied Macedonia then there is no reason why Kulwicki and Janduda could not repeat the dose.

Canberra

To say that there is no love lost between the two off-season big spenders would be an understatement.

Canberra Croatia, fresh from its first up success in the Challenge Cup, will be all out to make it two out of two in the opening rounds of the State League Premiership.

Newcastle fell at Deakin despite its strong defence.

With Perinovic and Reis running full of steam it is going to be an uphill job for Avala to keep Croatia at bay.

At the other end the sole threat will be Ackerley, with Radovic certain to add another dimension to the game if he contains his temper.

Valeri back

Inter Monaro will be back in contention at Melita Stadium next Sunday with Walter Valeri, the ex-NSL sharp shooter, certain to sway the result.

He will be coaching his side from the bench at the stadium but he also stands a good chance of facing the highly fancied Melita.

Refered to as 'Platini' ("sounds like Valeri" quipped the likeable Inter coach recently), he will be in no mood to let Melita roll all over his team.

With the charges such as Angelo Ambrosino, Attilio Carbone, Toplica Popovic, Bruno Monterosso and the inevitable star striker Sebastian Giampaolo, he may just give Melita a run for their money.

But the force of entertaining Melita might be just a trifle too much for the visiting Queanbeyan team.

Greg Brown, Anthony Versi and Aytek Genc could subdue the best of teams on given day, but as was shown last Sunday there are times when they could struggle.

Cromer Park

Warringah Freshwater will welcome Newcastle Austral with the knowledge that a good start to the season at newly secured Cromer Park might trigger a soccer revival north of the Harbour.

The side has already beaten Inter Monaro, and will be looking to a double.

Cotton v Hantzis

Sutherland Shire Sharks will be all out to keep their record against Canterbury intact.

Sutherland's fickle forwards must show more agression if they are to make any inroads against the Berries.

Roy Cotton will be leading the charge for the Sharks, while the experienced Spiro Hantzis could pose a lot of problems with his powerful boot at the other.

Ilinden to atone

"We were unlucky against Macedonia. I believe that we have come to the end of the troubles which started back in the fourth round of the Challenge Cup. I expect some good results from here on," suggested Chris Srbinovski, the Ilinden secretary.

Rockdale Ilinden will be facing its first hurdle of 1989 in Uruguay Penrith and nothing short of a win will please the demanding Macedonian fans.

However, Uruguay Penrith must be treated with a lot of respect after their fighting performance against Melita in the League opener at Cook Park.

Melita Eagles goalkeeper Alex McPherson saves a shot against Newcastle in a 1-3 Challenge Cup loss.

N.S.W. FIRST DIVISION with ALEX VESIC

Melita scrapes home 2-0

MELITA Eagles toiled for 90 minutes in steamy conditions at Cook Park to defeat Uruguay Penrith 2-0, but at no stage did their performance suggest they will run away with the State League this season.

Some early roughhouse tactics by both sides, with Uruguay giving away four freekicks in the opening two minutes followed by six of the same by Melita Eagles, were nipped in the bud by referee Alex Spirovski.

Neither side was able to penetrate in the opening 20 minutes. Mark Moffett of Uruguay was denied by Alex McPherson in the 10th minute and Aytek Genc hit the crossbar in the 20th minute, but from then on the game deteriorated to the level of an inter-suburban fixture.

Melita did not sparkle but was good enough to control play for the best part of the game. However, its openings came after some scrappy passing which produced at best half-chances.

Peter Berry shone with a superb save in the 49th to deny Anthony Versi, then McPherson had to deal with some sloppy overhead attempts by Bruno Voloder and Robert De Ceglie.

Gustavo Cerro found some space on the left flank in the 62nd and for once decided to employ an immediate crossfield pass which pin-pointed Aytek Genc.

The ex-Uruguay Penrith man drew three players before nudging a throughball for Versi to toe it into the left hand corner of the net.

The visitors continued to play without urgency and could so easily have lost one point in the 86th minute when Branko Kodor's free-kick was lobbed to the far post for Moffatt to head goalwards. An incredible fingertip save, followed by Craig Williams' clearance saved Melita.

Only a couple of minutes later, Greg Brown played the simplest of one-twos with Genc, then raced into the penalty area to beat Berry for a final 2-0 scoreline.

URUGUAY PENRITH: Berry, Rodic, Montesdeoca, Gonzalez, Zulj, Zulio, Beddoni (Giannone), Ortiz (Kodor), Voloder, Moffett, De Ceglie.

MELITA EAGLES: McPherson, Rodriguez, Williams, Cabassi, Gonzalez, Callanan, G.Cerro, Gimenez (J.Cerro), Versi, Genc, Brown.

Aerolineas sponsors Uruguay Penrith

AFTER long negotiations, First Division State League club Uruguay Penrith has secured an important sponsorship deal with the Argentine airline, Aerolineas Argentinas.

The deal for an as yet undisclosed sum came to effect some weeks ago and will continue until the end of the 1989 season.

In other news from the club, midfielder Paul Benitez has been transferred to Avala for a reported $2000 fee.

Benitez started his Soccer career, in Australia, with ex-inter-urban club Welcome, and had a stint with St George previously to his transfer to Uruguay Penrith.

— MARIO ETCHART

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N.S.W. **This Week's Matches**

SATURDAY MARCH 25

2ND DIVISION

Campbelltown	vs Fairy Meadow Utd	Bensley Rd 6pm
Waverley SC	vs Manly Warringah	Syd. Athletic Field
Orange Waratah	vs North Shore Utd	Waratah S/Grd 6pm

3RD DIVISION

Port Hacking	vs Blacktown United	Seymour Shaw 7.30pm
Central Coast	vs Mt Pritchard	Pluim Park 7.30pm
Canterbury District	vs Rooty Hill W/Utd	Valentine Park

SUNDAY MARCH 26

1ST DIVISION

Melita Eagles	**vs Inter Monaro**	**Melita Stadium**
Warringah F'water	**vs Newcastle Austral**	**Cromer Park**
Rockdale Ilinden	**vs Penrith Uruguay**	**Seymour Shaw**
Polonia	**vs Wollongong Mac.**	**Chopin Park**
Canterbury	**vs Sutherland Shire**	**Arlington Oval**
Canberra Croatia	**vs Avala**	**Deakin Oval**

2ND DIVISION

Sydney Macedonia	vs Granville Chile	Jensen Park
SSC Yugal	vs Bankstown	Mona Park
Gladesville Hornsby	vs Mount Druitt	Francis Park
Dulwich Hill	vs Bathurst '75	St George Stadium

3RD DIVISION

Concordia	vs Rosebery Portugal	Marrickville Oval
Hills Shire	vs Moorebank Liverpool	Fred Caterson Reserve
Southern Districts	vs Uni of NSW	Ernie Smith Reserve

Kick off times: First grade 3pm, Under 19 1pm, unless otherwise stated.

See a top State League match this week!

New tactics brought Wolves, Kiwis unstuck

BY MIKE JOHNSON

I saw two fascinating matches the other week end — Australia v New Zealand (4-1) and Marconi v Wollongong Wolves (6-0).

What intrigued me was to watch two teams coached on highly disciplined and systemised defensive lines fall apart completely as their coaches changed their system at half time.

Also it was the same catalyst which brought about the changes made by coaches — John Fleming and John Adshead.

The catalyst in both games was a second goal right on half-time.

John Fleming overreacted on the Saturday night at Brandon Park to a brilliant goal from an overhead scissor-kick by Fred de Jong just on the stroke of half-time, which put Marconi 2-0 up.

John Adshead made the same over-reaction on Sunday afternoon at the Sydney Football Stadium as Graham Arnold shot high into the net to take Australia into the half-time break leading 2-0.

Both New Zealand and Wollongong Wolves play to a 4 — 4 — 2 system using two central strikers, which is often a preference for British coaches.

At half-time, because they needed goals to catch up, both coaches pushed another man forward to produce three strikers in a 4 — 3 — 3 formation.

Now it is said that the formation Soccer teams use is flexible, and not necessarily how they will play in the game.

However, Wollongong Wolves especially, keep very much to their 4 — 4 — 2 formation and system.

It is the main reason they have obtained good results against teams with better players.

Not having seen New Zealand before last Sunday, I am not totally sure about them, but suspect their better results were based also on highly organised and disciplined play in their 4 — 4 — 2 formation, with the midfield four very crucial toward tight defence.

So, under pressure from goals right on the half-time whistle, both coaches abandoned the system which had brought them results and changed to three strikers, and three midfielders.

Not only did they do that, but they also conveyed to their teams, either by word of mouth, or by reason of the change, that they must 'attack'.

For both Wolves and New Zealand, their second halves were a disaster.

Wolves lost another four goals and it could have been six, the New Zealanders conceded two more, but it should also have been six.

The number of times that Australia's attackers zeroed in on the New Zealand goal, one on one against the last defender, or just as often one on one against the goalkeeper was unbelievable for Soccer at this level.

Uusually, when you meet these teams, Wolves and the All Whites, you will need to get past eight players before you get a strike on goal.

Over that weekend — defenders who had been used to having four midfielders strung across the park in front of them, suddenly found massive spaces in front of them.

Their midfields, depleted by one already, were intent on attack.

The defenders found themselves in situations they were not used to and they looked very bad defenders indeed, in both cases.

Their strikers, used to practising and playing as a duo, found it confusing with another one thrown up in their midst.

It is an over-simplication to say that attack is the best form of defence.

It is especially so when your team, man-for-man, is not as good as the other team.

Wollongong Wolves and New Zealand found this out the hard way on that weekend.

They both began playing catch-up Soccer, devoid of the great principle that you must win possession of the ball before you can attack.

If you constantly take the ball from your opponent, you get more time to attack.

In modern Soccer, and especially when you are behind, every player needs to do his part in winning back possession of the ball.

Watch Italian Soccer: you will find even the most gifted attacking player in the world, Maradona, doing his defensive work.

Not tackling, usually, but filling spaces, or deflecting attacks wide to give his defenders and midfielders time to get back into defensive formation, after previously opening out in attack.

Every modern Soccer player, all of the time, literally must defend and attack.

Australian striker Graham Arnold, had a good game.

A brilliant Marconi, made to look even better than they are, severely embarrassed John Fleming, a man who has done so much for the sporting pride of the city of Wollongong.

Zinni on the job

BY GREG BLAKE

YOU could hardly blame Preston Makedonia speedster Andrew Zinni if he was behaving like the proverbial angry young man, a man with a point to prove and a grudge against the press.

It says a lot for his attitude that he is none of the above despite a more than testing 1988 with relegation-bound Brunswick Juventus.

The Zinni story is one of a meteroric rise to stardom in NSL ranks.

The Preston Makedonia winger was a championship medal winner with Juventus in 1985 as a 21-year-old and a national team player not long afterwards.

In 1987 he took out the most prestigious of individual awards when he won the national Rothmans Gold Medal for NSL Player of the Year.

It was a win that was roundly canned — particularly by an unusually acidic Sydney press.

The events of 1988 almost seemed to vindicate what many had said all along — that Zinni, in a Juventus side which was losing many more than it won, hadn't deserved his medal.

What the critics failed to realise was that Zinni was carrying a groin injury serious enough for him to consider giving the game away completely.

But for him the medal, the press jibes, relegation and the injury (thanks to an off-season operation) are all behind him.

"Things are turning out pretty well", he says simply.

Which might prove the understatement of the season considering that Zinni is just about back to his explosive best and Makedonia is shaping as a genuine threat to the NSL title.

"I'm happy with my form", is about all he'll concede about the way he's bounced back in 1989.

"A lot of people said I should have done better at Juventus but I've no regrets about leaving and starting fresh.

"The whole team didn't have much of a year last year and individually none of us really performed."

Six months ago Zinni made no secret of the fact that he was hurt at the criticism of his Rothmans win.

These days he says he doesn't even think about the win or the critics.

"More than anything the thing with winning the medal brought me back down to earth", he told ASW.

"The first couple of years at Juventus I was used to success with the championship, the national team and the medal, etc.

"But all of a sudden I was with a side relegated from the NSL and I was struggling with injury and I really started thinking where my priorities were.

"I want to be in a successful team and that's all I'm looking at now.

"I want to put the whole Rothmans Medal thing aside — that's history now.

"I'm in a tremendous squad and the team spirit is fantastic, something I've not been used to for a couple of years.

"Admittedly there are some exceptional players in the team but the make-up of the whole squad is good, everyone is putting in and it is a real team effort that I'm happy to be part of".

When ASW talked to Zinni Makedonia was coming off a seven-game undefeated run — its best effort since its runner-up season of 1987.

But the best, says Zinni, is yet to come.

"The public has not seen the best of us yet", he says.

"Once we settle we'll be a much better team and I think we've got plenty to look forward to".

With his tremendous early season displays Zinni is certain to come under the notice of Socceroo coach Frank Arok but a return to the national team, says Zinni, is still a long way off.

"I suppose everyone has an eye on the national team and I know I'd welcome a second chance to play", he told ASW.

"But it's not of paramount importance at the moment.

"All I'm concerned about is playing well and producing each week at team level."

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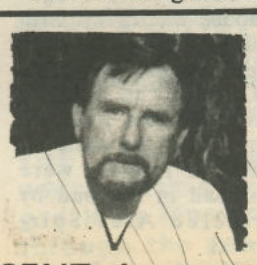

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Ken Murphy still young at heart

BY GREG BLAKE

Ken Murphy (Melbourne JUST) still on the ball, and dominant in the JUST defence.

THE transition from youngster to ageing veteran comes in an imperceptible fashion, creeping up and sneaking past almost overnight.

One day, the promising young player is no longer and in his place is the veteran of countless conflicts.

For some the change spells the beginning of the end.

For others, like Melbourne JUST's evergreen former Socceroo Ken Murphy, it is taken in stride.

Murphy, a rising 33-year-old colt, is probably playing as well as he was when he won a championship medal with South Melbourne Hellas in 1984.

As JUST has disappointed week after week, it has been only Murphy and one or two others who have consistently tried to show the way.

Age, it seems, has not troubled him a bit — it's just the veteran tag which irritates him now and then.

"They keep telling me that (he's a veteran), but it doesn't really occur to me until I realise that I'm playing with and against players 10 or 12 years younger than I," he says.

"I feel the same as I did a few years ago and it doesn't seem that long ago I was being called a youngster when I came to Melbourne Croatia at 20.

"All of a sudden, it's like a bell ringing: one day you're a newcomer, the next you're a veteran of the team."

Murphy, who brands himself "just a trier" despite a distinguished career in Victorian Soccer, says there's no secret to staying fit, healthy and in the first team.

"It's a matter of wanting to do well," he told ASW.

"I must admit I like to play much more than I like to watch, so that is an incentive in itself.

"I train harder these days and do a lot of work on my own and I seem to be enjoying the training more as I get older.

"Playing in the NSL is important to me, and if I'm going to do it, I want to do it as well as I possibly can."

According to the experts, Murphy is letting no one down at Footscray Road as the team continues to struggle.

And that suits Murphy just fine as a man who prides himself on his consistency of performance.

"The only way you can judge your own form is by what people are saying, and lately I've been getting a few compliments, and you only get those by putting in.

"I hate the thought that there might be people sitting and watching a game and thinking that you're out there not trying.

"Your form will always go up and down, but the important thing is to put in a steady effort all the time."

Which is exactly what a number of his JUST team-mates haven't been doing thus far into 1989.

Murphy, who says he was not confident before the current season began despite new club ownership, believes the recent coaching change can lift JUST from near the foot of the ladder.

"So far, we've had the players to do the job but not the team balance," he explained.

"There have been too many individuals and too many players getting away with putting in 95 percent instead of 100 percent.

"People sometimes ask me why I don't seem to age, but it's just that I've got an enormous desire to win.

"That was one of the things John (Margaritis) said to us when he arrived — that desire to win is one thing we've lacked."

And that is an accusation that can never be levelled at Ken Murphy.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

☐ John Warren was awarded an MBE in the Queen's honours list — the first such award to any Soccer player retired or active.

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NSL dominance

Figures tell the story

BY GREG BLAKE

IN response to a recent ASW article discussing the alleged dominance of Sydney teams in the NSL, the ASW team decided to establish just which teams are the best in the competition's history.

In compiling an all-time NSL ladder, including very club which has appeared at the top level, it appears the Sydney outfits aren't quite as dominant as they seem, despite having won eight championships to Melbourne's two.

The all-time ladder, including every NSL league game to the end of last season, threw up one interesting statistic.

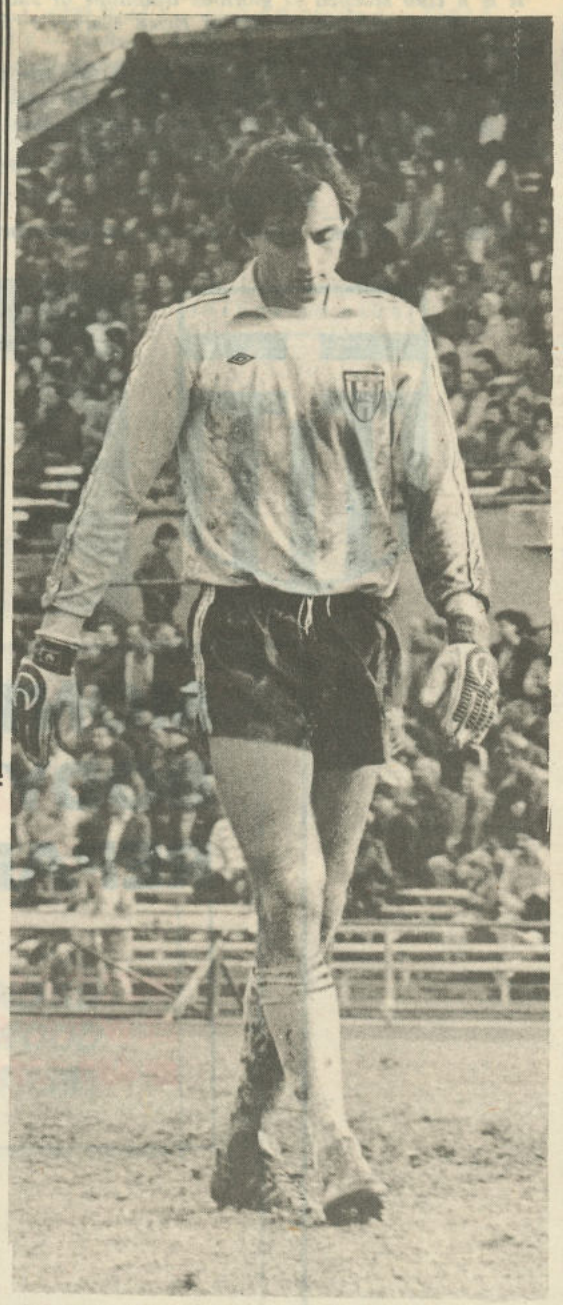
It has taken until just the past couple of weeks for Marconi and South Melbourne Hellas to overtake mighty Sydney City's total league points tally despite Sydney City not having appeared at NSL level since the end of the 1986 season.

The league table does not take into account finals matches nor does it include bonus points awarded in the 1979 season.

We've also converted the three points per win awarded in 1983 to the conventional two points.

We have not included games from the current season.

POS.	TEAM	PLYD	WON	DRN	LST	FOR	AGT	PTS
1st	Sydney City	266	153	64	49	520	266	370
2	South Melbourne	316	143	82	91	452	354	368
3	Marconi	316	141	82	93	533	381	364
4	Heidelberg	290	122	83	85	434	364	327
5	Adelaide City	316	118	82	116	448	398	318
6	Sydney Olympic	290	111	107	102	399	363	299
7	St George	286	107	78	101	401	406	292
8	Melbourne JUST	316	93	88	135	351	477	274
9	Apia Leichhardt	264	103	66	95	342	343	272
10	Brisbane Lions	292	91	78	123	348	429	260
11	West Adelaide	266	84	59	123	317	393	227
12	Canberra City	266	79	67	120	335	394	225
13	Preston Mak'a	212	80	64	68	294	252	224
14	Brisbane City	286	75	72	119	292	407	222
15	Wollongong	188	60	54	74	240	302	174
16	Sydney Croatia	122	61	30	31	194	133	152
17	Newcastle KB Utd	138	50	40	48	192	195	140
18	Brun'k Juventus	122	51	27	44	165	148	129
19	Melbourne Croatia	122	47	36	45	142	148	122
20	Blacktown	128	42	26	60	163	200	110
21	S. George Cross	122	35	38	44	139	177	108
22	Newcastle Rosebud	80	34	17	29	116	119	85
23	Western Subs	52	20	13	19	79	74	53
24	Green Gully	72	17	18	37	74	102	52
25	Penrith	50	12	16	22	53	76	40
26	Inter Monaro	66	10	11	25	47	82	31
27	Melita Eagles	28	8	8	12	23	38	24
28	Mooroolbark	26	5	5	16	31	61	15
29	Canterbury	22	2	7	13	17	41	11



Adelaide City favourite Robert Zabica in reflective mood as he strides it out at a home game. — Photo: JANUSZ KAMMA

Players' agency

BY GREG BLAKE

TWO of Melbourne's best-known Soccer personalities have combined to launch Australia's first agency to cater for the needs of the Soccer fraternity.

Well-known coach Miron Bleiberg and former Melbourne Croatia administrator Frank Burin, along with lawyer Joseph Katz, have formed Sports-pac Enterprises, an agency designed to deal exclusively with Soccer players, coaches and clubs.

Sports-pac will handle transfer and contractual deals for players and clubs, represent players or clubs in disputes and even act as a 'middle man' for players in search of a club or vice-versa.

Sports-pac, which has affiliations with a number of overseas football agencies, will also cater for players keen to try their luck overseas.

Bleiberg says the agency will provide an affordable alternative to solicitors for the Soccer community.

He believes his experience as a coach has provided a number of examples of where a management agency could have solved a dispute.

"Say a club is not paying a player, who has got the time and money to do anything about it?" he asked.

"Everyone knows how much legal advice costs.

"Where contract negotiations are concerned a lot of players are afraid of the paperwork and don't know their rights and what they're supposed to do.

"They feel the club has the advantage over them and they need someone to help them out.

"My original idea was to create a body to help these cases without them having to waste a huge amount of money."

From the initial idea, Bleiberg took Sports-pac a step further to involve Burin and Katz and the trio is now looking at arranging overseas transfer deals for local players.

"For a small amount, we can act as a manager for a player and for that small amount it will be like buying an insurance policy.

"We will use our combined expertise to fill a gap in the game.

"None of us will be a millionaire out of the enterprise — it was created as a business, but for the sake of Soccer".

Sports-pac Enterprises can be contacted on (03) 602 2277 and is located at first floor, 377 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

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South Melbourne Hellas Celebrates 30th Birthday

THAT the name South Melbourne Hellas is synonymous with Soccer in Victoria is testimony to the fact that the club is the best the state has to offer.

It is Melbourne's best-performed, most successful, best-supported and most highly-profiled Soccer club.

As Hellas celebrates its 30th anniversary, Greek and non-Greek Soccer fans alike join with ASW in saying "Happy Birthday South Melbourne", and thanks for the memories.

What memories they've been, and what great times Hellas supporters have had over the past three decades!

The hat-trick of State League titles in 1964-65-66, the memorable 1984 National League title success, dramatic behind-the-scenes coaching changes, the expensive signings and the days when Middle Park packed the crowds to the rafters of the famous stadium in Aughtie Drive.

All the dramas one would associate with one of the country's richest and most powerful clubs.

And the very reason why any youngster brought up on Soccer in Victoria wants one day to play for mighty Hellas.

South Melbourne, born out of the amalgamation of the Hellenic and Yarra Park clubs back in 1959, is now the aristocrat of the game down south and local fans, particularly that peculair breed known as the 'Blue and White Army', wouldn't want it any other way.

It is a club steeped in glorious traditions of success, success which the new breed of Brian Garvey's 'Baby Blues' started to achieve last season.

But as Hellas climb towards the top of the pile once again, it is worth remembering the heroes who made the club great and carved the South Melbourne name into the honour roll of folklore in Victorian Soccer.

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RNE HELLAS

of magic, the ghosts of many of the greats of Victorian Soccer who've pulled on the blue of Hellas are vivid in the memory.

Hellas is one of the few Victorian clubs which boasts such a grand tradition of success.

It is hardly surprising then that this grand club also has the strongest following of any Victorian club.

When Hellas is singing, it is a sweet tune indeed and to be at Middle Park on match-days to hear them sing is an event in itself.

There's a spine-tingling aura about the place when the 'Blue and White Army' is in full voice and Hellas is on the attack.

And there is no time the Hellas fans find better voice than when the 'enemy' is old rivals Heidelberg.

When these two Greek-backed outfits hit the battlefield together anything at all can happen.

Atmosphere

The atmosphere is charged and the players of both clubs almost invariably rise to the occasion.

A Hellas vs Heidelberg derby is an event in itself no matter what the outcome.

10,000-plus crowds are not unusual when these two arch-rivals meet in combat and this weekend's game will be no different.

Heidelberg Alexander will be handing out no birthday presents this weekend at Middle Park as they continue their return to form under rookie boss Jim Tansey.

Hellas will be hoping a return to the irresistible form of last year is just around the corner.

And you can bet the Hellas faithful would want nothing more than a return to that sort of form against the Heidelberg club they love to hate.

Any time these two sides meet, it's a special occasion and always worthy of 'match of the day' status.

This weekend will be no different — just be there early when the giants meet in mortal combat.

PREVIOUS LEAGUE RESULTS: 1977 Heid 5 — Hellas 2, Hellas 1 — Heid 1, 1978 Heid 4 — Hellas 1, Hellas 1 — Heid 1, 1979 Heid 3 — Hellas 0, Hellas 0 — Heid 1, 1980 Heid 1 — Hellas 2, Hellas 0 — Heid 0, 1981 Heid 0 — Hellas 0, Hellas 4 — Heid 1, 1982 Heid 2 — Hellas 0, Hellas 0 — Heid 1, 1983 Heid 2 — Hellas 3, Hellas 1 — Heid 1, 1984 Heid 0 — Hellas 2, Hellas 2 — Heid 0, Hellas 2 — Heid 0, 1985 Heid 0 — Hellas 1, Hellas 1 — Heid 0, 1986 Heid 3 — Hellas 2, Hellas 0 — Heid 1, 1987 Heid 1 — Hellas 1, Hellas 1 — Heid 1.

— GREG BLAKE

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Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

DOMINIC LONGO has returned to the Australian Institute of Sport to ensure maximum attention to his cruciate ligament injury.

Blacktown City's Les Scheinflug is eager to have the former Australian youth captain back in service as soon as possible.

★★★

JAMIE WARREN, nephew of former Socceroo captain and ASW columnist Johnny Warren, was unfortunate enough to break a leg when playing for the St George Youth team recently.

The spiral fracture will keep him out of the game for the entire season.

It was almost 30 years to the day that another uncle, Geoff, broke his leg in the 1959 NSW Ampol Cup in Sydney.

Young Jamie was recently asked to return to join up with the Flamengo club squad in Brazil, where he played with the youth team for eight months back in 1985.

However, his travelling will be limited for the time being.

Recently he has been driving 1100 kilometres per week to take him from his home down the South Coast at Kiama to Sydney for playing and training.

His father, Ross, was another famed Canterbury first grader of yesteryear.

★★★

The NSW Soccer Federation's Motel complex at Parklea has been invaded by ice hockey players, from all over the world.

Six teams are in Australia to compete in Pool C of the World Ice Hockey Championships.

Australia will be taking on Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, South and North Korea, and the Peoples Republic of China.

★★★

Adelaide City soon could be one of the few West End League clubs with brothers playing together regularly.

Australian High Schools youngster Tony Vidmar last week stepped up from City's State League side to join Socceroo brother Aurelio in the black and whites' senior line-up.

★★★

INTER Monaro coach Walter Valeri has been keen to sign highly rated PAUL JONES as a goalkeeper.

Jones, once a scholarship holder at the Institute of Sport, has not played seriously for two years as he concentrated on developing his career.

Valeri said Jones was interested in making a comeback with Monaro and it was a matter of coming to terms.

"Quite frankly I am getting a little anxious," the coach said. "In a competition like the NSW League you have to have three reliable goalkeepers on the books, and at the moment we only have one."

★★★

TERRY GREEDY, the former Socceroo goalkeeper, is pleased with his move to the NSW Central Coast.

He certainly doesn't knock the local lifestyle, and says he is very happy playing for ambitious Central Coast in NSW Federation League Three.

★★★

AUSTRALIAN under 16 captain EDWARD LEES has won a two-year contract with Blacktown City, after being in Sydney and trialling for some time.

Lees hails from Casino and is another outstanding product of the NSW North Coast. Terry Greedy, Gary Phillips, Craig and Paul Foster came from the area.

★★★

EX-YOUTH Socceroo and Brunswick Juventus stalwart Fabio Incantalupo has signed for Bulleen Veneto for a fee of $10,000.

Incantalupo, who scored the two goals to give Juventus the National League championship in 1985 against Sydney City, left the club at the end of last season and will prove to be a very important acquisition for Bulleen.

★★★

THERE are quite a few Soccer players of quality in the NSW Police Force who are showing out at present.

Ian Burrows is with Sutherland, with Doug McKenzie and Peter Bonic at Yugal.

Fernando Canellas, who passes out from the Police Academy next month, is a very handy player, whilst Paul Atkinson plays first grade in Newcastle.

★★★

Adelaide City officials have been concerned over the use of compact Hindmarsh Stadium for home West End League games.

Coach Zoran Matic claims claims the pitch is too small to suit his players' style.

But Hindmarsh, it has been revealed, has the same dimensions as famous Wembley.

★★★

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PICTURED (left) at Sydney Airport are Australia's star defender/midfielder Alan Davidson with Efi, his wife of 10 months. Davidson's decision to continue his Socceroo career turned out to be a huge bonus for the national team.

PETER KATHOLOS, Marconi's former Socceroo midfielder, believes in doing everything at once.

On Saturday night he scored his team's opening goal against Blacktown in the first round of the NSL Cup.

It was his first goal of the season, and he used it to commemorate his 28th birthday!

★★★

MARCONI have improved part of the seating in their new stand.

Additional seating has been added to the section in front of the pressbox, which gives an increase of 50 percent to the area involved.

★★★

WATCH OUT, opponents of Sydney Croatia!

Manis Lamond is in scoring form in the youth team, and is wending his way back to first grade as he overcomes his recent knee injury.

★★★

IN four games Marconi have scored 18 goals, whilst only conceding three. Even more impressive is their yellow card count.

It would be hard to beat recording only one in four games.

★★★

BILL LONDOS, who replaced injured Steve Watson in the Blacktown Demons' goal last Saturday night, had a blinder.

Four of his saves rated with some of the best seen in Sydney this year.

Londos was Sydney Olympic's back-up goalie before joining up at the Gabbie.

★★★

PEDRO RICOY has settled in well at Lambert Park after his switch from St George.

The dynamic midfielder reckons he gained a lot from his brief stint in Spain with First Division club Ceuta.

"The training over there helped my game. Everyone works a lot with the ball and there is plenty of power running and stretching exercises, but no work with weights," he said.

"As my parents are Spanish, I found myself being drafted in the Spanish army. I couldn't see that helping my career, so I returned to Australia.

Apia is a good club and I am enjoying my football there."

Ricoy was born in Uruguay, and came to Australia at the age of nine. He played all his junior football here.

★★★

BLACKTOWN CITY's attacking midfielder STEVE BERRY has been transferred to Avala.

Berry is a local product who previously shone in the Demons' under 19 side. The fee was $2500.

★★★

ENGLISH FOOTBALL

Pressure on space this week has caused us to hold over Mike Ticher's revealing feature on the prospects of an English Super League.

Which way should the Football League go?

Read Ticher's outstanding opinion piece in ASW.

'Cucho' for Canberra Croatia

FORMER Chilean Soccer international 'Cucho' Casali, in Australia to play for Canberra Croatia, spent his first full day in the ACT last week and vowed, "I will show the people here that I am worthy of their faith in me".

And the man who wants to be part of Croatia's drive to the National League backed his enthusiasm by getting up at 6.30am and working out at the Kippax Centre.

Casali — "my real first name is Agustin, but in Chile everyone called me 'Cucho' and it is lucky for me" — was brought to the ACT at the instigation of Croatia's masseur, Decler Holuigue, himself a former professional in Chile who also played for Marconi.

"It has long been my wish to bring a top quality player to Australia, and when Croatia showed interest, I used my contacts to secure Cucho," he said.

And on paper at least, Casali has the pedigree. His Chilean First Division debut for Union Española rated a cover story in a national Soccer magazine, and his scrapbook is full of favourable press references, including the part he played representing his country in the 1983 Pan American Games.

At the beginning of last season he was transferred to San Luis de Quillota, a club recently relegated from the First Division which had decided to spend big in order to regain top status. With Casali in the side it bounced back as divisional champion.

With Holuigue acting as interpreter, Casali, 26, described himself as a ball-winning midfielder who enjoyed laying on goals but who could also score them with a hard left-foot shot.

"I am not concerned about the physical nature of Australian Soccer," he said. "I am naturally a hard player and I believe I can handle it."

But he was under no illusions about the quality of Soccer here. "Before last year we thought Australian football was of a low standard, but since your win over Argentina we now know you have made great strides and that the game here is as good as anywhere."

Holuigue said he believed that having Casali in the team would excite the ACT South American community and bring extra support for Croatia.

And Casali, who has left a wife and daughter in Chile in order to try his luck with Croatia, made no secret of his ambitions. "I want to do well here and play at the highest level — I would love to play for Australia. But first I must prove myself to my new coach and team mates who, I realise, know nothing about me."

— GRAHAM COOKE

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GREG RUSSELL REPORTS

Lions take out 16-kick shootout

Brisbane City's Noel Greenhalgh, seen here against Heidelberg United, missed his penalty — and put Lions into the XXXX pre-season final.

BRISBANE Lions will play Mount Gravatt in the XXXX pre-season tournament final — eventually.

The final is yet to be scheduled after the final stages of the tournament were delayed because of rain.

The tournament ran into the fixture season and QSF secretary Jim Gilbert admits it could be May before a spare mid-week date is available to stage the final.

The two clubs reached the final in vastly different fashion.

Lions needed a 16-kick penalty shootout to get past Brisbane City in a match which should have been the final while Mount Gravatt cruised past Pine Rivers 3-0.

The Lions-City match, the first clash between the two clubs for over a year, was a thriller with the two keepers the most outstanding players on the park.

City took the initiative early, but some wayward shooting from close range and some fine saves from Lions' Rod Farrow kept the game scoreless in the first half.

After making a a good saveoff a Lions attack, he quickly released Paddy Dillon down the right with a long throw.

Dillon drew the defence and slipped a neat pass to Ronald Yule, the defender turned striker, who tapped past Farrow with the outside of his foot.

It was a save from Evans which led to Lions' equaliser.

The City keeper brilliantly blocked a powerhouse volley from Frank Mengotti which looked a certain goal from the time it came off his foot.

In blocking the shot, Evans deserved more than what was to follow.

The ball fell for Lions' John Lowey, who delicately chipped a cross to the far post where youngster Chris Slater showed amazing agility to leap high into the air and glance a header into the net.

With a 1-1 scoreline after extra-time, a shootout was required and the drama continued to flow.

Dillon scored for City, then Evans saved Mengotti's first attempt for Lions.

Lee Howells (City) and Arno Bertogna (Lions) were successful.

The scores were then levelled when City captain Noel Greenhalgh put his attempt on to the upright.

Russell Stewart was successful for Lions to make it all even after three kicks each.

Yule then put City ahead while John Ogden (Lions) had his attempt saved by the agile Evans.

With Kieran Cooper to kick to win the match for City, Farrow saved to keep Lions' hopes alive.

Martin Kirsopp then had to be successful to force the kicks to go to sudden death.

Evans saved Kirsopp's first attempt, but was ruled to have moved.

Kirsopp put away a brilliant penalty at his second attempt.

Glen Archer (City) and Chris Slater (Lions) were both successful then City's Andrew Chapman had his first attempt saved. But this time it was Farrow who was adjudged to have moved.

Chapman scored with his second while Andrew Stowell followed with a successful kick to keep the shootout alive.

Then in the 17th kick, including retakes, City defender Rod Vasquez ballooned his shot over the crossbar.

Lions midfielder Mick Tonner, the former North Queensland captain took a copybook penalty to give Lions victory.

Mount Gravatt sealed their place in the final by half-time. The Hawks had a dream start when former Acacia Ridge striker Roy Smyth headed a goal in the first minute.

Mike McCarthy added a second in the 30th minute and John Brown another 10 minutes later to give Mount Gravatt a commanding half-time lead.

Rivers missed a golden opportunity to get back into the game when Len Manikus, who had netted from the penalty spot the previous Saturday, missed when his side was 0-2 down.

The second half was a bruising affair but Rivers could not find the goalscoring spark which had carried them into the semis and Mount Gravatt were content to sit on their lead.

Stowell quits squad for Anzac Day game

Queensland's preparations for this year's interstate clash with NSW at Perry Park on Tuesday, April 25, begin this week with the first game in the annual triangular intercity series.

Brisbane will play Ipswich at Ebbw Vale tonight, then will host Gold Coast at Perry Park next Wednesday

An indication of the players likely to be in the Queensland team was given when Mal Bland named his Brisbane squad last week.

The 18-man squad features six Brisbane Lions players and four from Brisbane City, who could all be expected to press for state selection.

The Brisbane squad is: Rob Farrow, Russell Stewart, Frank Mengotti, Martin Kirsopp, Nick Meredith (Lions), Wayne Evans, Ronald Yule, Cheetha Vosuga, Kieran Cooper (Brisbane City), Clayton Koch, Andrew Stillman, John Preston (Pine Rivers), Stein Grodum, Bill McDermott (Easts), Gordon Buchanan (North Star), Michael Mulvey, Alan Niven (Mount Gravatt).

One noticeable omission was former NSW captain Arno Bertogna who transferred to Lions this season.

But the big stopper missed most of the pre-season tournament, the official trials for the Brisbane team and Bland has no doubts Bertogna is still in contention for a maroon shirt.

"I picked the squad on what I saw in the XXXX pre-season tournament and unfortunately Arno played just one game because of a knee injury," Bland said.

"But I am sure Bruce Stowell (the Queensland coach) knows very well Arno's capabilities."

The stopper's position appears to be one of the most eagerly-contested in the state team.

Grodum made the position his last season after a good tour of Fiji and then a capable interstate match.

But in addition to Bertogna coming to Queensland, Brisbane City has signed Yule, a former Scottish youth international, who has shown plenty of experience and exposure in the City central defence.

The state goalkeeping shirt also is up for grabs

Former Brisbane Lions youngster Jason Kearton, now with Everton, played between the sticks in the interstate game last year after Fiji tourist Wayne Evans was injured.

Evans and Farrow are the leading contenders this time but there appears little between them.

Bland intended using last weeks's pre-season semi-finals to decide who will get the nod first up in his Brisbane team. And both keepers turned in superb performances.

The inclusion of three players in the squad from Pine Rivers, including Koch — the younger brother of Sydney Olympic's John Koch — was fair reward for the newly-promoted club's bold effort in reaching the pre-season semi-finals.

Koch was particularly outstanding and scored two of the tournament's best goals while Stillman is another talented central defender.

Niven's move from Lions to Mount Gravatt, where he now plays as a midfielder, obviously has done him no harm, but it would not surprise if he is named in the Brisbane team in his more traditional role as leftback.

The only other recognised leftback in the squad is North Star's Buchanan although Meredith could play in the position.

Williamson played sweeper for Brisbane while Steve Perry was given that job against NSW last season.

Perry did not play in the pre-season tournament because of injury and it appears Stewart, who has been switched from midfield to the backline at Lions, will get the Brisbane sweeper's job.

Whether Stowell sees the former young Socceroo as a defender or midfielder remains to be seen.

Ireland brothers retained status

OFFICIALS from Quensland XXXX League club Mount Gravatt have read with interest the latest moves by Soccer nomads, Gary and Simon Ireland.

Gary was reported in ASW last week to have organised a trial with Swedish champions Malmo, who recently toured Australia, while Simon was stated to be heading off for coaching clinics in the United States.

Mount Gravatt officials were quick to point out the brothers were retained players, despite walking out on the club last year, and are still on the transfer list at $5000 each.

The Irelands left Queensland and headed for Sydey after a controversial short stay, their second stint in Brisbane Soccer.

The pair were signed by the Hawks and arrived in a blaze of publicity, citing themselves not only as top-line players but also coaches of the intensive Will Coever coaching-system.

Simon quickly scored goals for Mount Gravatt, then was sidelined after a cruel tackle at Dittmer Park.

His injury almost certainly cost him a place on the Queensland tour of Fiji, but younger brother Gary clinched selection.

Although he played in each game, Gary failed to impress Queensland coach Bruce Stowell and was to be left out of the Queensland indoor team picked shortly after the tour.

Simon, who had recovered from the injury, was selected for the Super 6 tournament.

In the days that followed, the Ireland brothers were to go to Press making claims against the QSF, Mount Gravatt and certain sections of the media.

They walked out of Mount Gravatt, primarily over a dispute centred around who should pay their travel costs from the Gold Coast, where the brothers chose to live.

A newspaper report quoting criticism of the QSF management committee by Gary Ireland prompted the management committee to cite him to appear to explain his allegations.

When he failed to front, claiming the QSF should pay his cost to come up from the Gold Coast, he was suspended until he fronted.

That suspension was finally lifted last week, but the ASF and FIFA, who seemingly were forwarded all copies of the Ireland's vast correspondence on the matter, were also advised the pair were still retained Mount Gravatt players.

"If anyone is interested in buying them, here, in Sweden or the United States, we would be pleased to talk transfers," said a Mount Gravatt official.

KOBE TOUR

A TEAM of Queensland youngsters will tour Japan this month on a goodwill visit financed by Brisbane's sister city, Kobe.

The schoolboy team will compete against 60 international sides in an under 11 tournament as part of Kobe's centenary celebrations.

The 16 youngsters were selected by the Queensland State Primary Schools Soccer Football Association.

They will be coached by new Brisbane Director of Coaching Mal Bland.

The team is: Scott Connell, Michael Foster, Glen Kolpak, Troy Wickstein, Shayne Thornton, Joel Douglas, Dean Stevens, Benjamin Parkin, Reece Tollenaere, Scott Hetherington, Adam Leflay, Luke Tindall, Jason Paterdis, James McKay, Clinton McDermott, Simon Bronks.

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Falcon's crest ascendant against Vales

VSF

FIRST DIVISION with Angelo Sticca

MORWELL Falcons continued their run of consecutive victories this season when they fought off a fighting Springvale City 1-0 via a John Sekoluk goal.

Morwell dominated the first quarter of an hour, and it was in this period that the all-important winner was scored when John Sokoluk easily put away a corner cross in the 8th minute of play.

Springvale was kept in the match by an in-form goalkeeper in Rob Brian, and despite a second half surge from Gus Macleod's team, who have yet to score a goal this season, Morwell maintained its 100% record and took top spot on the League table.

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds, Bingham, Byrne, Walsh, Bruns, Doyle, Nelson, Sokoluk, McBride, Basara, Wright, Basara off h/t replaced by Cassar.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Brian, Reilly, Whyte, Bradon, Bissinger, Finlay (Rolleman 75th), Keenan, Bell, Armstrong, Verechia, Livingstone.

ALTONA GATE 3 FRANKSTON PINES 0

The battle of the newly-promoted Altona Gate and Frankston Pines saw Altona prove its ambitious recruiting to be successful when it easily disposed of the Pines 3-0.

Garry McMullen blasted the first hat-trick of the League season in the space of 19 minutes after the first half had seen a fairly even battle as the two new clubs felt each other out.

Frankston enjoyed its best period of the match in the 10 minutesafter half-time when it continually peppered the Altona goal without success.

Weakened by the loss of player-coach Joe Sweeney, who was taken to hospital with concussion, Frankston fought hard but were overwhelmed by the finishing of McMullen, who opened the scoring in the 62nd minute after neatly rounding the keeper and putting the ball in the back of the net. Further goals in the 69th and 81st minutes saw McMullen give Altona a comprehensive victory.

ALTONA GATE: Lee, Illioski (Micevski 78th), Momirovski, Markovski, Byrne, Nicoski, Kebakoski, Asilmovski, Georgievski, McMullen, Ristovski.

FRANKSTON PINES: Davies, McDonagh, Ferris, Watson, Drinosky, Weir, Dick, McMinimee, Sweeney (Macleod h/t), Stirton, Miller, Irvine.

BULLEEN 0 BRUNSWICK JUV 3

In front of a crowd of over 3,000 people, the Italian Derby between Bulleen and Brunswick Juventus saw Juventus completely overwhelm the Bulleen team.

After only one minute Juventus took the lead when Scott Patterson latched onto a Glockner cross and put the ball past Bulleen goalkeeper Contini.

Before Bulleen could even recover from the shock of conceding its first goal, Juventus were 2-0 up thanks a to a well finished goal from the head of Glockner in the second minute.

Juventus kept attacking throughout the remainder of the first half as Bulleen fought grimly to hold the opposition out.

Charlie Egan gave Juventus its third goal just before half-time when a penalty was awarded for a foul on Glockner.

Although the second half failed to add to the scoreline, the Brunswick side was never troubled by the normally dangerous Bulleen forwards and easily took the two points for a third consecutive victory.

BULLEEN: Contini, Livingstone (46 Marson) Ruccia, Krajacic, Curulli, Angele, Trogrlic, Incantalupo, Bozikas (46 Sella), Milosevic, Lujic.

JUVENTUS: Laumets, Marley, Coady, De Amicis, Belic, Lane (70 Della Rocca) Herd (65 Giaccarini) Patterson, Egan, Minichiello, Glockner.

RINGWOOD 0 FAWKNER 1

Fawkner recorded its first victory of the season over a depleted Ringwood City at Jubilee Park.

An 81st minute goal from the young Fawkner sensation, Emmanuele, allowed John Colangeli's team to pick up two valuable points.

Ringwood's keeper, John Blackley, kept Ringwood in the match with some fine saves, but despite all his efforts, Ringwood was not able to find the back of the net and slumped to its second loss of the season.

RINGWOOD CITY: Blackley, Wemyss, McGuigan, Cummings, Verniers, May, Muir, Maguire, Cocker, Davie, Kennedy (52 Lepre).

FAWKNER: Barba, Beatty, Cosentino, Schipano, Tuffield, Petricca, Ferrer (88th Popovski) Sabatino, Hanna (46th Emmanuele) Stensen, Ferla.

GREEN GULLY 3 NORTHCOTE CITY 1

GREEN GULLY: Sant, Napoli, Grimaud, Wilson, McMillan, Cutler, Smart, Ferquarhson, Sweeney, McLennan, Pender.

NORTHCOTE CITY: Turudia, Beklaris, Harris, Palmaricciotti, Kouremenos, N. Constantinou, Patiniotis, Thodis, Carroll, Woodall.

THOMASTOWN 1 CAULFIELD CITY 2

Caulfield City staged a late recovery to down Thomastown at the Partridge Reserve on Saturday.

Throughout an uneventful first half, it was Thomastown who had the chance to go one up when a penalty was awarded for a foul on Athersych, but the kick was well saved by Caulfield keeper, Madjer.

The Thomastown goal eventually came in the second half when Athersych intercepted a pass and duly put the ball into the net.

Caulfield equalised 15 minutes from time when a tremendous run and cross by Zolatrarev allowed Bitsonis to easily head the ball home.

Caulfield's winner came six minutes from time when newly signed Con Pappas scrambled the ball into the net after a Bitsonis header wasn't properly cleared by the Thomastown defence.

THOMASTOWN: Raponi, Mihaildis, Mihos, Hennessey, Higgins, McMillan, Carfora (McGuinness 9th) Athersych, Dougherty, Cristaldo, Sinclair.

CAULFIELD CITY: Madjer, Bitsonis, Koutouris, Dimovski (Baldwin 5th) Fattore, Theoharous, Filipou, Drakeford, Pappas, Aretis, Zolatarev.

BOX HILL 0 CROYDON CITY 0

The inability to score goals led to a scoreless draw at Wembley Park on Sunday.

Ivan Duzel (now with Melbourne Croatia) clears from Dominic Ruccia, who will be helping Bulleen to Victorian State League honours this season.

With neither team being able to capitalise on chances in front of goal, the clash between Box Hill and Croydon, which in previous years has always produced exciting encounters, petered out into a frustrating draw for both teams.

For Croydon, an answer to its problem in front of goal could well be answered with the arrival this week of Darren Scott, a 19-year-old from a non-League team in England.

BOX HILL: McKinlay, McMorrow, Macleod, Cooper, McArthur, Kennedy (McAleer) Davidson, Thomason, Ham, Campbell, Egan.

CROYDON CITY: Croado, Langsbury, Roodhouse, Dobson, Brown, Quigley, Humble, McIntosh, Brimmer, Gabrielson, Van Egmond.

POLONIA/M.A. 0 ST ALBANS 1

St Albans left its scoring boots at home in the match against Polonia, but still managed to take the two points thanks to a third-minute goal from Morovic.

St Albans were able to create a number of clear-cut chances only to be let down by poor finishing, whilst for Polonia the problem was a failure to create the chances for the forwards to pounce upon.

POLONIA: Kostrasewa, Farrugia, Innes, Lakic, Bilchartz, Temos, Czapnik, Bonk, Bellegrinos, Baran, De Bono, Nelson.

ST ALBANS: Grgic, Simovic, Dragovic, Bozic, Colina, Kuzman (70th Desic), Culina, Rastovic (Tondeljak) Kuperesic, Morovic, Gagula.

Victorian State League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brunswick Juv	3	3	-	-	9	1	6
Morwell	3	3	-	-	5	0	6
Altona Gate	3	2	-	1	5	2	4
St Albans	3	2	0	1	3	1	4
Caulfield	3	2	0	1	6	5	4
Green Gully	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Box Hill	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
Bulleen	3	1	1	1	3	5	3
Fawkner	3	1	1	1	2	4	3
Thomastown	3	1	0	2	3	4	2
Croydon	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Polonia	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Northcote	3	1	0	2	4	6	2
Ringwood	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Springvale	3	0	1	2	0	2	1
Frankston	3	0	1	2	3	10	1

Results

MORWELL FALCONS 1 (Sokuluk) SPRINGVALE CITY 0, ALTONA GATE 3 (McMullin 3) FRANKSTON PINES 0, THOMASTOWN 1 (Athersych) CAULFIELD CITY 2 (Bitsonis, Pappas), BULLEEN 0 JUVENTUS 3 (Patterson, Egan, Glockner), BOX HILL 0 CRODYON CITY 0, RINGWOOD CITY 0 FAWKNER 1 (Emmanuelle), GREEN GULLY 3 (Farquarhson, McLellan, Pender) NORTHCOTE 1 (Kouremenos) MARIBYRNONG 0 ST ALBANS 1 (Morovic).

Top Scorers

3: McMullen (GG), 2: Sokoluk (MF), Basara (MF), Egan (Juve), Patterson (Juve), Tsangas (NC), Herd (Juve), Gagula (Alt), Farquarhsen (GG), Davay (Ring).

THIS WEEK'S GAMES:
Saturday Caulfield City v Green Gully, St Albans v Morwell Falcons, Frankston Pines v Bulleen, Juventus v Box Hill, Fawkner v Altona, Thomastown v Croydon City, Springvale City v Ringwood City, Northcote v Polonia Maribyrnong Ardeer.

COMING WEST END NSL FIXTURES

ROUND 11

SATURDAY MARCH 25			
Sunshine GC	v	Apia Leichhardt	Chaplin Res 2.30pm
SUNDAY MARCH 26			
Adelaide City	v	Melbourne JUST	Olympic Sp F 2.30pm
Preston Mak	v	Blacktown City	Olympic Pk 2.30pm
Sydney Croatia	v	St George	Croatian Sp C 7.30pm
Sydney Olympic	v	Marconi	Syd F'ball Stad 7.30pm
MONDAY MARCH 27			
Wollongong C	v	Melb. Croatia	Brandon Park 2.30pm
South Melbourne	v	Heidelberg	Middle Park 2.30pm

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ALAN CLARK REVIEWS
The Soccer Scene in . . .
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA Youth Plan

SA is to launch a unique plan to identify and develop young Soccer talent here.

Four new part-time coaches will be appointed to supervise the ambitious plan launched by the SA Soccer Federation, in conjunction with the SA Sports Institute.

The project will be funded by the SA Government under its Sports Plan.

The Federation is calling for applicants for coaches at Youth, Under 16, Under 15 and Under 14 levels.

Each will coach state teams for the national championships as well as fostering young identified talent in their respective age groups.

"This is a first for Australia," said SA Soccer Federation general secretary Mike Wells.

"We are looking for quality people who not only will take teams to the national championships, but also will develop players in an ongoing situation.

"We are seeking the co-operation of clubs to form regular coaching sessions to develop selected talent."

Co-ordinator of coaching at the SA Sports Institute, Neil McGachey, said funding had been approved to employ the coaches and cover the training budget, travel and accommodation for state teams.

"Depending on senior commitments, an appointment also could be made at senior level," said McGachey.

Included in duties of the new junior coaches will be:

— Design and implementation of a high-performance coaching programme.

‹election of training squads and competition teams.

— Development and maintenance of a comprehensive talent identification programme.

Appointed applicants are likely to have a successful performance-based coaching record with coaching qualifications desired.

Salary and conditions will be negotiable, depending on qualifications and experience.

Conditions of service are similar to those applying to staff employed by the SA Sports Institute.

The closing date for coaching applications to the general secretary of the SASF is Friday March 24.

MODBURY fared worse in a trial, though.

Both Bryan Kent and Peter Millar were dismissed against Para Hills and had to sit out the Golden Grove club's opener.

David Edwards of Para had a similar fate after receiving his marching orders from ref Tony Martell in the same game.

★★★

PORT Adelaide United has signed versatile Adelaide City player John Spanos.

He will be a key man in defence for the Magpies who will play in First Division this year after gaining promotion last season.

Spanos will replace experienced Wolfgang Jovanovic, who has gone to WA to further his career.

★★★

Birkalla depleted

BIRKALLA Eagles will be without three men this year.

Mark Burrowes will be sidelined with a knee injury; strongman Mike Genikas has moved to Ceduna in a teaching appointment and Robbie Tobin will be off to Europe on an architectural study tour.

Tobin is the brother of Socceroo, Alex.

Eagles supremo Neil McGachey is back in charge at Camden after the lifting of his lengthy suspension following an alleged altercation with referee Mike Browning.

★★★

USC Lion-Grange has signed teenage Adelaide City striker Paul Ellul.

He impressed, scoring a goal, in a trial game against Birkalla Eagles.

Lion also has fixed up Elvis Markov from Polonia.

The Grange club received a further boost when skilled defender Ian May re-signed for this year.

Adelaide Croatia players and officials celebrate after their team's 5-4 penalty shootout win over Birkalla Eagles in the Ampol Cup Final.

— Photo: JANUSZ KAMMA

Croatia also has a very different tale of two brothers.

Defender Slavko Cafuta is ruled out for at least a month with a serious groin injury.

But that could give an opportunity to his brother Ivko, who has signed for the club from Polonia.

SA's top 12 Division One refs this year will arrive at games resplendent in new blazers.

They will be adorned by the Fairmont Pacific Homes logo of sponsor Gordon Pickard's company.

Pickard has agreed to give refs generous sponsorship for this season and the blazers are the first of several moves to boost the men in black in SA.

★★★

FORMER State player Uros Zivkovic has turned down the chance to get back into Soccer.

Zivkovic formerly coached Beograd and was wanted by USC Lions after player-coach Bernie Bridges quit to concentrate on playing alone.

But Zivkovic, after a couple of training sessions, decided to turn down the job.

ADELAIDE WHISPERS

Azzurri faces baptism of fire

STATE First Division new boys Azzurri on Saturday will get the most severe test of their stature agianst Adelaide Hellas at Hindmarsh.

Hellas opened with a psychologically sound 2-1 win against defending champions Croatia.

Captain Alby Kidd capped a man of the match display with a gem of a solo goal that sealed the points.

The only blemish for Hellas was the early departure of Colin Miller — sent off by ref Donald Campbell.

Azzurri battled well before falling to the goals might of Polonia imports Pawel Weiczorek and Mariusz Niewiadomski.

Former Polonia man Rick Piotrowski scored against his old club for the Blues.

Home advantage might see Birkalla Eagles edge in against Croatia who beat them in the Ampol Cup final.

The Eagles though opened with a draw against another new First Division side, Port Adelaide.

Gary Price's two goals were cancelled by two from Yugoslav import Vojislav Glusevic.

The Magpies travel to play Salisbury which had Gordon Haig sent off in a 0-2 loss to Lion, coached for the first time by new man Alex McKinnell.

New Lion player Elvis Markov was playing hot behind the front men with two goals.

The Berries welcome back Graham Latham from suspension and home advantage should see them in.

Campbelltown fought out a keen 1-1 draw with Modbury for which new coach Steve Ames missed a penalty. The Red Devils could find Lion a handful.

Young Adelaide City earned a tough goalless draw against Para with 10 men after NSL man Gareth Naven was sent off.

City will get no comfort from Modbury while Para will have to smarten to roll Polonia.

★★★

Adelaide Juventus Old Boys toppled their Melbourne counterparts 1-0 in a special curtain-raiser to the Adelaide City-Sydney Olympic match at Hindmarsh.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Dimoudis sinks Marconi

A lone strike in the 18th minute from Saints striker Steve Dimoudis was enough to send Marconi to their first defeat, but the Leopards held onto top spot as Sydney Olympic were held at home to a 1-1 draw by the Wolves.

MARCONI 0 ST GEORGE 1

Both sides created plenty of chances in an entertaining match at Marconi Stadium last Saturday, but Dimoudis' goal separated the two teams and ended Marconi's unbeaten run.

St George won a free kick just outside the box after a mistake in the Marconi midfield. Dimoudis struck the kick sweetly through the wall and swerving away gave Catlin no chance.

MARCONI: Catlin, Carlucciio, Mammone, P. Okon, Charlewood, Lopes (Messina), Budini, R. Licata, Ienco (Cortes), K. Okon, Vanegas.

ST GEORGE: Bouhoutsos, Tressider, Morakeas, Esposito, Lampropoulos (Goldstein), McGregor, Dimoudis, Harper, Krslovic, Adoble (Kakakios), Adloski.

OLYMPIC 1 WOLLONGONG 1

Sydney Olympic failed to take advantage of Marconi's defeat when Wollongong snatched a point at St George Stadium at the weekend.

The Wolves remained in third place with the point but had to hang on as Olympic took control.

The home side went ahead after 15 minutes, Eric Hrist scoring from the spot after Jason Bennett was fouled.

Olympic continued to threaten the Wolves goal and went searching for the killer goal but a series of mishaps let Wollongong back into the game.

In the 73rd minute Abbas Saad misjudged a backpass to Gosling and Goran Trajevski stole the ball and beat a couple of defenders to score.

OLYMPIC: Gosling, Triantafilou, Georgakis, Hrist, Georgopoulos, Sharpley, Lardis (Loumanis), Saad, Aroujo (Foundas), Bennett, Refenes.

WOLLONGONG: Atsas, Allport, Trajevski, Vidal, Woods, Higgs, McEvoy, Brown, Browning, Petkovic, Srbinovski.

BLACKTOWN 1 CROATIA 4

David Seal continued to lead Croatia to the top with two goals to take his tally to 10 in four games after returning from the Australian schoolboys' UK tour.

Blacktown, at home and riding high after their defeat of the Saints last week, were no match for the rampaging Croatia side who have scored 17 goals in their last four games.

Exciting U16 star Ned Zelic opened the scoring in the 14th minute and Seal made it 2-0 right on the half-time break.

Stephane Jee took full toll of the nine-man opposition and reduced Blacktown's deficit in the 69th minute.

Croatia hit back, however, and Lamond, complete with new boot, scored in the 81st minute before Seal added the extra on full-time.

ADAMSTOWN 1 AIS 2

AIS took both points in a tight struggle at Adamstown Oval, with both sides creating a number of chances.

Brian Keegan netted in the 22nd minute from a set move off a freekick for AIS, and former Adamstown player, Brett Eldridge, made it 2-0 after 55 minutes when he slotted home after a cross from the left.

Alan Gilday replied for the Rosebuds three minutes later but the home side failed to find the equaliser and the young AIS team held on.

ADAMSTOWN: Symes, Milevski, Jones, Dorman, Roberts, Ortega, Gilday, Wells, Webb, Orton (Williams), Hudson.

AIS: Mautone, Rochow, Santon, Wells, Kolivs, Dickson, Keegan, Trajanovski, Block, Maloney, Eldridge.

APIA 2 AIS 2

Once again AIS failed to kill the match after having both points for the taking, against strugglers APIA.

The Institute held a 2-0 lead but threw it away in the final 10 minutes.

Trajanovski set AIS on their way with opportunist goals in the 10th and 60th minutes that set APIA on their heels, until the last 10 minutes.

Two goals in two minutes from striker G. Brett in the 79th and 80th minutes earnt APIA a point.

APIA: Boutra, Lahanas, Pettenon, Palapanis, Gregson, Ruperto, Cosentino, Karavatakis, Licastro, Brett, Pisano (Brown) (Restaino).

AIS: Mautone, Stanton, Wells, Kolivs, Romaniuk, Dickinson, Sorras, Kindtner, Keegan, Trajanovski, Maloni.

NORTHERN NSW

News and Views

FROM DAVE WILLIAMS

LJ Hooker sponsors ambitious Wallsend

WALLSEND is gearing up for a strong showing this season in the State First Division premiership.

The club is enjoying its second year of sponsorship from L.J. Hooker in an arrangement that has netted it a sizeable cash amount in addition to a player strip.

The club will offer its first team a weekly incentive scheme that will give one player a $50.00 award based on attendance and attention to training and match performance.

Lake Macquarie – Budgewoi in Benchmark Cup opener

SEVEN northern area country teams and one from the Central Coast are included in the Northern NSW Soccer Federation's 1989 Benchmark Building Supplies Cup competition.

The first games in the competition are set down for April 5, 8, and 9 and the draw for the 16-team tournament is:

- April 5 — Lake Macquarie City v Budgewoi at Macquarie Field, Speers Point.
- April 8 — Newcastle Austral (Youth) v Tamworth at Austral Park, Birmingham Gardens.
- April 9 — Tweed District v North Coast Premier League at Murwillumbah.
- April 9 — Adamstown Rosebud v Highfields Azzurri at Adamstown Sports Ground.
- April 9 — Manning District v Port United at Omaru Park, Taree.
- April 9 — Weston Bears v Cessnock City at Weston.
- April 9 — Hastings District v Stockton Sharks at Fairmont Gardens, Wauchope.
- Subsequent rounds are scheduled for April 16 and June 12, with the final due on August 27.

Adamstown Rosebud, the 1988 Northern NSW First Division premier, also won the inaugural Benchmark Cup competition last season when it defeated North Coast Premier League in the final played at Coffs Harbour.

Rosebud will be keen to repeat that performance this season, since 1989 is its centenary year.

Scottish midfielder to Newcastle Austral

NEWCASTLE Austral's latest signing, Kevin Shell, arrived in Sydney late last week to be added to Willie Gallagher's NSW State League squad.

Shell, 21, hails from the English-Scottish border, where he played with Berwick Rangers, a Scottish Second Division club.

A right-side midfielder, he was recommended by former Socceroo Alan Ainslie as a possible St George recruit before Austral secured his signature.

Alan Ainslie

Meanwhile, the two Austral players who scored most of the team's goals between them last season, are back in training after missing the pre-season competition.

Robert Holden, who suffered injured ribs in a trial game against Cardiff, and Brett Porter, plagued with a back ailment, will add to Gallagher's forward options.

Another Bathurst defeat

BY PAUL GOODWIN

N.S.W. 2ND AND 3RD DIVISIONS

FOR the second Saturday night in a row, a visiting side came away from Carrington Park, Bathurst, with a clean sheet and two valuable points.

This time, a much improved Campbelltown Vikings followed up on Fairy Meadow's success the previous weekend with a sound 3-0 victory.

The luckless Bathurst '75 fought hard to keep their opponents out, with 'keeper Mick McCabe pulling off super-saves in the 12th and 28th minutes, before Dave Bonney struck.

The 1988 Club Player of the Year raced onto a throughball from Verdan and celebrated his first game back in the side after injury with a great goal from an acute angle.

Mark Stanton almost made it two when his own effort went narrowly wide, with Bathurst going close themselves, through Mutton, whose header struck the post.

Ian Wotherspoon used all his skill to curl a 53rd mintue free-kick around the defensive wall and into the top right corner of the net and set up Mark Stevens in the 85th, who put the issue beyond doubt.

It was a good return to form for the Vikings, who face unbeaten Fairy Meadow at home this Saturday night, but Bathurst will not relish the trip to Sydney to meet Dulwich Hill, who are in top form.

The Portuguese-backed team made up washed out, by defeating the previously unfor lost time, having had their last game beaten Bankstown 2-0 at Potts Park.

Sergio Barros claimed both goals to add to the hat-trick he managed in the opening round, firing in a fierce, low shot in the fifth minute and picking up a nice pass from Beres during injury-time to give his side both points.

Bankstown worked hard against a skilful opponent and nearly got back in the game when Danny Volarich rocked the crossbar with a dipping shot in the 25th minute, but the absence of two key players took its toll.

Back to full strength, Town could make amends on Sunday when they face Yugal at Mona Park.

Yugal did exceedingly well to register a 3-0 win at Garside Park over Granville-Chile, surviving a torried opening 20 minutes as the defence worked overtime to keep out an impressive home side.

The Blues grabbed the lead when a back-to-form Chris Card met the ball from a corner with a well-placed header and gave his team further cause for joy by volleying home the second in the 70th minute.

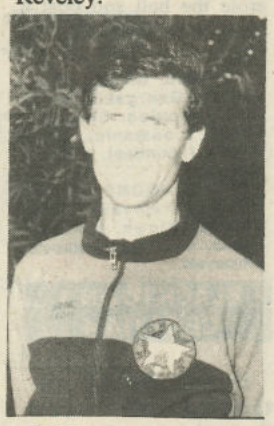
Card played his hand in the third, sending over a neat cross for subsitute Con Triandifilou to meet on the rise with five minutes remaining.

It was a boost to Yugal's confidence after going down to Manly, but Granville Chile can recover from this setback and give top guns Sydney Macedonia a shock at Jensen Park this weekend.

It won't be easy for the South Americans, however, as Macedonia are riding high. They attacked Manly from the first whistle at Cromer Park and were soon in front. Sasha Spirovski made it 1-0 with a diving header and the Yagoona-based side looked full of goals as they came at Manly throughout the game.

A fighting effort by the Seasiders restricted the visitors to 1-0 at the break, but soon after the resumption Leon Arcosa made it two with a clever lob over the wall from a free-kick as Craig Carlisle became unsighted at the vital moment.

Tom Gavin and Mark Butler worked well together up front, but met stiff resistance from a well-drilled defence led by Billy Pilovski and Mark Reveley.



Billy Pilovski

Manly should parade some new sigings when they face Waverley at Sydney Athletic Field on Saturday night. New Zealanders Kevin Houlena, a left side player from Takapuna and Mario Nola, a front runner from Blockhouse Bay, will link up with John Garrett, who has returned from Perth where he starred with the local Corinthians side.

It will be interesting to see how Waverley fare, having been out of action since the opening round. Wednesday's deferred game with North Shore United was washed out and Sunday's game against Mount Druitt was also a weather victim.

North Shore United were itching for action when they came up against Gladesville Hornsby in a local derby clash at Valentine Park and looked likely to make a good impression early on.

Derek Ryan clipped the bar with a cheeky lob in the 28th minute and then did good work on the right flank to set up Glenn Jeffery, who stabbed the ball home from close range.

Graeme Williamson's long throw from the right touchline in the 53rd minute led to ex-Ku-ring-gai and Hibernian striker Robbie McKegan getting the ball past Craig Thornton in the Chasers' goal. Craig Bass headed against the bar in the 78th minute as North Shore pressed hard to regain the lead.

With the home side committed to attack, Gladesville were always likely to do well on the break and Paul Mamo, who had a fine game on the flanks, did the damage when he sent over a sweetly timed cross for Shaun McKenzie to meet with a perfectly timed header in the 88th minute.

Gladesville will take an unbeaten record into their next match at Mount Druitt, all points coming away from home, and must wait until the sixth round to be greeted by their own supporters.

North Shore, who have high hopes for 1989, must atone for their narrow defeat, by accounting for Orange at Waratah Park on Saturday evening. It will be a test of their character after failing to record a win to date, having dropped down from First Division.

Orange had looked useful in the opening outings at their headuqarters, but when they left town for the first time last Sunday found Fairy Meadow a bit of a handful. This South Coast side lost most of their players during the off-season, but have come up with a winning combination already and are among the pace-setters.

DEREK RYAN

At Brandon Park, Harry Satin, one of a number of former players returning to the side, pounced on a loose ball to give United an early lead. Dean Gardiner made a solo run to score from close range and Richard Peil made it three with a typical opportunist effort.

Orange managed a consolation goal late in the piece, but Meadow were full value for their win. On this form they will also prove a handful for Campbelltown on Saturday.

Bathurst '75 0 Campbelltown Vikings 3 (Bonney, Wotherspoon, Stevens), Bankstown 0 Dulwich Hill 2 (Barros 2), Granville-Chile 0 SSC Yugal 3 (Card 2, Triandifilou), Manly-Warringah 0 Sydney Macedonia 2 (Spirovski, Arcosa), Mount Druitt v Waverley SC postponed, North Shore United 1 (Jeffery) Gladesville-Hornsby 2 (McKegan, McKenzie), Fairy Meadow United 3 (Sattin, Gardiner, Piel) Orange Waratah 1 (Reiss). Leading Scorers: 5 Sergio Barros (DH) 3 Robbie McKegan (GH), Dave White (BIN), Vehvija Kadric (SM).

Injury

We are sorry to report that Mt Druitt secretary coach Joe Martin suffered severe injuries in a car smash at the weekend.

He is in Mt Druitt Hospital and all will wish him a speedy recovery.

ROUND 3 GRD 1

Sydney Mace	3	2	1	0	6	2 5
Fairy Meadow	3	2	1	0	6	2 5
Dulwich Hill	2	2	0	0	8	3 4
Gladesville Hby	3	1	2	0	5	4 4
Bankstown	3	2	0	1	4	4 4
Campbelltown Vk	3	1	1	1	5	3 3
SSC Yugal	3	1	1	1	5	4 3
Orange Waratah	3	1	1	1	5	6 3
Manly Warringah	3	1	0	2	6	9 2
North Shore Utd	2	0	1	1	3	4 1
Mount Druitt	2	0	1	1	1	3 1
Granville Chile	2	0	1	1	1	4 1
Waverley	1	0	0	1	1	2 0
Bathurst '75	3	0	0	3	1	7 0

ROUND 3 GRD 2

Manly Warringah	3	3	0	0	10	3 6
Orange Waratah	3	2	1	0	5	1 5
Campbelltown Vk	3	2	1	0	6	3 5
Gladesville Hby	3	2	0	1	3	2 4
Bathurst '75	3	1	1	1	13	14 3
Sydney Macedonia	3	1	1	1	4	5 3
Bankstown	3	1	0	2	17	7 2
Mount Druitt	2	1	0	1	4	3 2
Dulwich Hill	2	1	0	1	2	3 2
Waverley	1	0	1	0	1	1 1
North Shore Utd	2	0	1	1	1	2 1
Granville Chile	2	0	1	1	0	2 1
SSC Yugal	3	0	1	2	2	7 1
Fairy Meadow	3	0	0	3	1	16 0

THIRD DIVISION

MOUNT Pritchard Community Soccer Club made an auspicious debut to the Federation 3 competition with convincing wins over the Canterbury & Districts side at their Club Sports Complex last Sunday.

The senior side won 4-1 and the Under 19s 3-1.

The result in the senior game was not indicative of the closeness of the match.

Canterbury & Districts scored first in the opening minutes and it took Mount Pritchard some time to equalise and eventually take command.

Goals for Mount Pritchard were all scored by the forward line: Jason Golby (2), Ken Thompson and Craig Castellino one each.

The Under 19 game saw Brad Gambril score a fine hat-trick, a great start to the 1989 season and an effort that should see him soon elevated to the senior side.

A highlight of this game was the debut by local product Joe Arruzzi, a 16-year-old who has played with the Mount Pritchard club for a decade, starting off in the Under 6 team.

ROUND 1 GRD 1

Mt Pritchard	1	1	0	0	4	1 2
Rosebery Portugal	1	1	0	0	2	0 2
Concordia	1	1	0	0	3	2 2
Uni. of NSW	1	1	0	0	2	1 2
Central Coast	1	1	0	0	1	0 2
Blacktown United	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Southern Dists	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Rooty Hill W/Utd	1	0	0	1	2	3 0
Hills Utd	1	0	0	1	1	2 0
Moorebank L'pool	1	0	0	1	0	1 0
Port Hacking	1	0	0	1	0	2 0
Canterbury & Dist	1	0	0	1	1	4 0

ROUND 1 GRD 2

Rosebery Portugal	1	1	0	0	9	0 2
Central Coast	1	1	0	0	6	1 2
Hills United	1	1	0	0	5	1 2
Concordia	1	1	0	0	5	3 2
Mt Pritchard	1	1	0	0	3	1 2
Blacktown Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Southern Dists	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Rooty Hill W/Utd	1	0	0	1	3	5 0
Canterbury & Dist	1	0	0	1	1	3 0
Uni of NSW	1	0	0	1	1	5 0
Moorebank L'pool	1	0	0	1	1	6 0
Port Hacking	1	0	0	1	0	9 0

Coaching scheme backs export enhancement

FROM ACT DIRECTOR OF COACHING, STEVE DARBY

MANY years ago — in the distant 1970s — Eric Worthington the then recently appointed National Director of coaching made the statement: "A sign of the success of the National Coaching Scheme will be when we start to export players to the rest of the world."

National coach Frank Arok, former president of the Yugoslav Coaches Federation, demonstrates the goal that got away to Ron Smith and Gary Cole of the AIS.

Many people reportedly laughed at the suggestion and few could even envisage that in the next decade there would be a very strong Australian XI overseas playing in professional leagues.

Players such as Kearton, Bosnich, Krncevic, Nikolic, Vazquez, Mitchell, Farina, Dorigo, Kalantzis, Anastasiadis, Hristodoulou, Bozinosvski and Yankos are all displaying their talents overseas.

Of course it cannot be proved that the national coaching scheme "made" all these players, but it is a sound theory that the structure has helped the young Australian to flow through a developmental learning process rather than an ad hoc trial and error situation of learning the skills of the game.

Due to the coaching scheme the young Australian can flow through a range of coaching experiences, from the fun beginner coach when just a small boy to the highly qualified level 3 or 4 coach when a senior player.

The coaching scheme has 4 levels:

- ***Level 1** For those who need to learn how to organise very young players, with enjoyment and satisfaction as the major objective.*
- ***Level 2** is designed for coaches who are expected to help young players to develop their individual techniques and also their skill is using them in a game.*
- ***Level 3** Courses are designed for coaches who need to develop the team play of their players and who are already Level 2 coaches.*
- ***Level 4** Courses aim to provide the knowledge required to manage a club and to coach players at the highest level.*

The scheme is like a sleeping giant with hundreds of coaches entering at one of the four stages every year.

ERIC WORTHINGTON

A classic example of somebody who has developed through the scheme is Gary Cole, the AIS and assistant national coach.

He has shown that you can reach the top in coaching through the national coaching scheme.

Club administrators should contact their state director of coaching and enquire about courses.

They should also ensure that all their club coaches are accredited, as one day — perhaps even in the next decade — the Australian National League will follow the path of Holland, West Germany and Italy and only allow licenced coaches to coach.

I believe that the wisest clubs are already doing this.

ADSHEAD RECALLS MCGARRY, IRONSIDE

BY LOU GAUTIER

MIKE McGarry and Robert Ironside have been recalled to the New Zealand World Cup squad for the matches against Australia and Israel next month.

Kiwi coach John Adshead got the go-ahead from Eddie Thomson last week to select the two Sydney Olympic players.

The All White supremo had been roundly criticised for picking no Australian-based players in the first two World Cup qualifiers.

Marconi's Fred de Jong remains a puzzling omission, but he too could get a recall in the next couple of days.

The addition of the three NSLers could only bolster a New Zealand team which looked very thin on dynamism and midfield creativity against the Socceroos at the Sydney Football Stadium.

McGarry was a regular starter for the All Whites, and one of their most consistent goal scorers, before moving to Sydney late last year.

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

NEXT WEEK'S MATCHES
ROUND 8
Sat 24 March: Adamstown v Olympic at Adamstown Oval 4pm
Wollongong v AIS at Brandon Park 12.15pm
Sun 25 March: AIS v Blacktown at Bruce Stadium 4pm
Croatia v St George at Croatian Sports Centre 4.30pm
Olympic v Marconi at Football Stadium 5.30pm
Mon 26 March: Apia v Wollongong at Lambert Park 12.15pm

Marconi	10	6	3	1	20	8	15
Olympic	8	6	2	0	24	4	14
Wollongong	9	4	3	2	14	13	11
Croatia	9	5	0	4	21	16	10
St George	10	4	2	4	13	13	10
Blacktown	9	3	1	5	15	20	7
AIS	7	2	2	3	11	14	6
APIA	9	1	3	5	8	25	5
Adamstown	9	1	0	8	8	21	2

OLYMPIC 1 (Hrist) WOLLONGONG 1 (Trajevski) AIS 2 (Keegan, Eldridge) ADAMSTOWN 1 (Gilday), CROATIA 4 (Seal 2, Zelic, Lamond) BLACKTOWN 1 (Jee), ST GEORGE 1 (Dimoudis) MARCONI 0, APIA 2 (Brett 2) AIS 2 (Trajanovski 2).

Top Scorers

10 David Seal Croatia, 6 Jason Bennett Olympic, 5 Steve Dimoudis St George, 4 Charlie Ienco Marconi, 4 Klaus Okon Marconi, 4 Carlos Vanegas Marconi, 4 Eric Hrist Olympic, 4 Stan Suman Blacktown.

DID YOU KNOW?

— That Australia and Israel first met in a Soccer international in December 1969?

The World Cup tie was in Tel Aviv and ended with a 1-0 Israel victory. Australian defender David Zeman had the misfortune of scoring an own goal in his first and only appearance for the national team.

CORRECTION

Last week's page 1 article erroneously referred to Joe Mirmovitch as the Israeli national team coach replaced by Yaakov Grundman and Yitzak Schneor. It should, of course, have read Milienko Mihic, Mirmovitch being the coach when Australia knocked Israel out of the World Cup in 1985.

SOCCER

Styles hits back

IPSWICH coach Brian Styles has hit back at accusations that his team is a "social outfit".

Lions coach Frank Liddell made the accusation in his weekly newspaper column, criticising the appointment of Styles and Mark Brusasco as "dual coaches", and the selection of eight players from Coalstars and eight from Ipswich United as "nice and fair".

"Ipswich are no more than a social outfit," Liddell wrote.

An angry Styles hit back, saying it was an insult to label experienced players like Brusasco, Mark McNaughton and Jeff Dann as "social".

"We have put in some good training sessions and now this has really fired up the boys," Styles said.

Let's crucify the guilty fan

BY GINO DE LA SCERRI

WHY can't we lynch that Apia spectator who allowed his sentiments to get the better of his reason, and forget all about it?

And, while we're at it, while don't we fine the Blacktown club, which should have provided better protection for the referee who was so brutally assailed.

After all, the match in question was played an the Blacktown ground, and the Blacktown club was therefore responsible for the keeping of good order?

Indeed, why throw dirt in Apia's face at all?

We all know that referees are human, and being so, they are liable to error.

We also know that spectators are quite unreasonable when they expect a referee not to make any mistakes at all.

Indeed we expect them to see around corners and perhaps even carry a portable BC-10 computer.

But from this, to paste a picture of rogue spectators at the entrance to football stadiums is a long way. Why don't we erect a guillotine behind the goalposts?

I wish someone would illuminate me. When, before the Blacktown-Apia incident, did an Apia spectator, or spectators invade the ground last?

That Apia spectator who did so was a naughty boy, he ought to be denied dessert after his meal, or his plate of pasta for a week.

In any case, this culprit has received so much adverse media attention, directed both at him and at the club he supports, that he is very unlikely to perpetrate the same deed again.

I do not believe it, but they are saying down Leichhardt way there is some kind of a conspiracy to get APIA out of the NSL, but I just agree that it does seem that way.

The best thing the NSL can do is to clear the air, and decide which party should bear the onus for failing to provide adequate referee protection, and have that club fined according to the statute books.

I, for one, believe that all NSL grounds should have a wire net as they have at St George. And such a wire net should be compulsory and a condition for participation in the NSL.

In fact I seem to recollect that the St George Stadium wire net was erected as a consequence to a worse ground invasion by another crowd.

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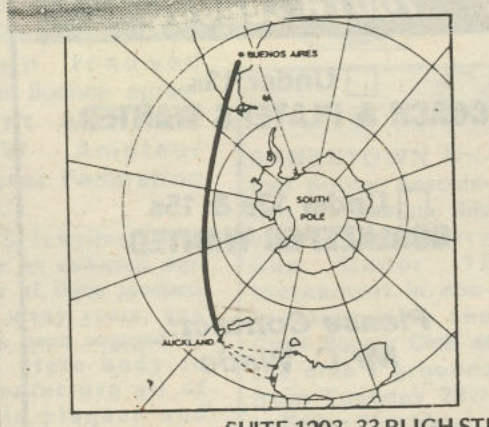

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A79NZ

The Editor

DON'T doubt that Australia's coach Frank Arok will have his entire attention focussed on keeping his players at the ready for the coming World Cup matches in Auckland on Sunday week, and then at the Sydney Football Stadium against Israel on Sunday April 16.

The 1-1 draw at the Ramat Gan Stadium in Tel Aviv has given the Socceroos a tremendous chance to challenge the South American Group 2 winners for a place in Italy in June 1990.

The result was a top performance and all involved must be congratulated for their efforts.

It is pleasing to see an upturn in National Soccer League attendances and an improvement in the way the sport is being handled.

In spite of the gains, it is quite pertinent to enquire about the direction the League is taking.

Examine the routes being followed by the major competitors.

- Australian rules' major VFL competition has spread its wings to add major clubs in Perth, Sydney and Brisbane to its long-established Melbourne base. Adelaide, given time, will come in.
- Rugby League began with Sydney, and proceeded to add clubs in Brisbane, Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra, Gold Coast, as well as the satellite city of Campbelltown.

Any person with the interests of Soccer at heart would be entitled to ask: "What then is Soccer's game plan?"

The answer would have to be: "Clubs of varying quality are established in Melbourne and Sydney, with Wollongong and Adelaide added.

"There has been no stable presence retained from Brisbane, Newcastle and Canberra.

"Perth for the time being is a financial improbability."

For some years now we have brought Soccer's situation under the nose of the authorities.

But, it seems, without effect.

Let it be said that there has been a recent decision to establish Soccer on national television, which now gives match exposure right across the country.

But this is the day of major television and national advertising and any code in Australia that thinks it can carry along without at least a club in every major capital needs to do some deep thinking.

The game surely has only one hope and that is to consolidate its Melbourne and Sydney clubs, and go into Brisbane, Newcastle and Canberra along with the present Adelaide and Wollongong — and in the long term, Perth — with one major club each.

When migration was at its height, the VFL people wooed many local leading immigrant businessmen into its ranks and away from Soccer.

Wrangles in Sydney ensured that others moved out.

Present administrators have to be big enough to bring outstanding businessmen into the Soccer code.

The Sydney Swans are a case in point. After seven years of more mess than success, they now have a chance because a group of high-powered businessmen have taken over.

In Newcastle, where Soccer earlier drew up to 16500 fans, rugby league is often drawing 20,000.

Rugby league closely monitors the financial position of its less affluent clubs.

The only hard evidence with Soccer indicates that the clubs are regarded as financially in order if they meet their NSL commitments!

It is no accident that neither Australian rules nor rugby league will countenance promotion and relegation.

They insist on having major, stable leagues, with clubs positioned firmly in the major available cities.

Effective television cover is always in place.

For Soccer, the only breakthrough into big-time sports revolves around the success of the Socceroos.

Wake up, Soccer, and quickly!

DID YOU KNOW?

— That East Germany and West Germany have only ever met once in a full Soccer international?

The historic occasion was at the 1974 World Cup finals. Both teams were in Australia's Hamburg and West Berlin-based group and the East Germans scored a shock 1-0 win.

Chilean star to Granville Chile

GOALKEEPER Julio Lobos, an ex-Chilean youth international, has signed a one-year contract with NSW Second Division League Club, Granville Chile.

Lobos, 25, started his career at the age of 12 in the lower ranks of Universidad de Chile.

In 1982 he was transferred to Universidad Catolica and toured Europe, gaining valuable experience.

His excellent skills ensured his selection for the Chilean National Youth Squad in 1983.

As first choice, Lobos played for his country in the Panamerican Games held in Caracas, Venezuela.

From 1984 until 1986, Lobos played for the first team of Universidad de Chile.

But the next year struggling Second Division Deportes Valdivia obtained his services and they went on to win promotion to First Division.

He is now looking forward to playing in Australia, a long way from home.

His main aim is to prove his skills and to earn the chance to play for a National League club in the near future.

His most memorable game was against Italian club Lazio in 1982. Universidad Catolica won 1-0 and Lobos saved two penalties.

Among international goalkeepers, Lobos admires Uruguayan Rodolfo Rodriguez, Chilean Roberto Rojas and Belgian Jean-Marie Pfaff.

The best players he has ever seen is Pele.

— MARIO ETCHART

DID YOU KNOW?

— That HARRY WILLIAMS is the first and only Aborigine to have played for Australia at full international level?

He won his first full cap in 1972 and was a member of Australia's 1974 squad at the World Cup finals.

AUSTRALIAN YUGAL YOUTH LEAGUE

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Manchester United's Gordon Strachan (left) challenges a Nottingham Forest player during his side's controversial 1-0 loss in Saturday's FA Cup quarter-final

Manly Warringah Soccer Sixes

THE inaugural Manly Warringah Sixes was successfully staged at Cromer Park on Sunday 12th March.

The new concept of six-a-side on full size pitches was well received, and certainly helped to condition the players for the coming season.

All games were hard fought with an extremely consistent Belrose-Terrey Hills team just missing out on the semi-finals with three 0-6 defeats!

In the first semi-final the tournament's leading scorer Scott England (9 goals in 5 games) scored a hatrick to give Forest a 5-1 victory over Cromer.

TCN Channel 9 overcame local boys Seasiders A2-1 in the other competitive semi-final.

The teams were entertained in the rest periods by a ladies demonstration game between Framex and Collaroy Plateau Ladies Soccer Club. In an end to end game Framex came out 2-0 winners.

A penalty taking competition proved excellent value immediately prior to the final. Ex-Manly Warringah representative and now Marconi goalkeeper Brett Hughes kindly offered to make it difficult for the takers.

Stylish kicks from Dave Fowler and John Fraser took them through to round five before they missed to leave Manly Warringah U19 player David Mason and Forest's Robert Bryant alone to battle for the $50 cash prize.

After a further four nerve racking rounds Bryant finally scored to take the money.

The final was played at a frantic pace on the No1 pitch at Cromer Park.

Forest repeated their 1988 Grand Final victory with a comfortably 4-1 victory. Scott England again proving the match winner with two individual goals.

The event was organised by Sportsforce International, and the success augurs well for the future of this new annual event.

Central Coast sponsorship

CENTRAL Coast Soccer Association Ltd has announced a substantial sponsorship deal of $10,000 with its current sponsor PEPSI.

The deal greatly increases the prizemoney for the Premier League competition and provides Soccer with a good springbroad for the next three years to promote the code.

Kevin Best, the Promotions Officer of the CCSA Ltd said: "It is pleasing to see our established sponsor enforce their commitment with the code.

"The sponsorship provides improved prizemoney for first grade premiers and league champions, whilst reserve grade and under 17 will also be accommodated.

"Club jackets will also be presented to each member of the premiership-winning team (first, reserve and U/17).

"In all, the prizemoney and jackets come to a total of $8,000".

The other funds will be used for publication costs of the popular SOCCER POST news sheet and advertising to the sponsor's benefit.

The competition will again be known as the PEPSI Premier League, which will consist of 10 teams with four grades i.e. 1st grade, reserve grade, under 17 and 3rd grade.

The competition commences on April 2 with the grand final to be staged mid to late September.

EUROPEAN CUP UPDATE

CHAMPIONS' CUP: Steaua Bucarest (Romania) 5 IFK Goteborg (Sweden) 1, Galatasaray (Turkey) 1 Monaco (France) 1, AC Milan (Italy) 1 Werder Bremen (West Germany) 0, Real Madrid (Spain) 2 PSV (Holland) 1.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Sampdoria (Italy) 0 Dynamo Bucharest (Romania) 0, Mechelen (Belgium) 1 Eintracht Frankfurt (West Germany) 0, Roda (Holland) 2 CSKA Sofia (Bulgaria) 1, Barcelona (Spain) 0, Aarhus (Denmark) 0.

UEFA CUP: Bayern Munich (West Germany) 2 Hearts (Scotland) 0, Dynamo Dresden (East Germany) 4 Victoria Bucharest (Romania) 0, Napoli (Italy) 3 Juventus (Italy) 0.

THIS is the draw for the European Cup semi-finals:

Champions' Cup: Real Madrid v AC Milan, Steaua Bucharest v Galatasaray.

Cup-Winners' Cup: Sampdoria v. Mechelen, CSKA Sofia v Barcelona.

UEFA Cup: Bayern Munich v FC Napoli, Dynamo Dresden v VfB Stuttgart.

- Torino's Brazilian striker, Muller, is not happy in Italy. He appears certain to be transferred to Flamengo next season.
- **Benfica's Brazilian libero, Elzo, has asked for a transfer. He does not get along with coach Toni and is refusing to play as long as Toni is in charge. He has been fined $5,000 by the club, which is actively seeking a buyer for him.**

NSW Amateur Soccer Federation

REGISTERED OFFICE: 482 Meurants Lane, Parklea 2148
POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 175, Toongabbie 2146
TELEPHONE: 629 2833, Fax 629 3770

NSW State Cup, Robertson Trophy
NSW Amateur Cup Nomination Form

COMPETITIONS: 14, 16 and 18 Year old age groups State Cups, 21 year old age group Robertson Trophy and All Age Amateur Cup.

VENUE: Association Home and Away where possible.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE: Friday, 14 April 1989

COMMENCE:
Round 1 21st May — Round 4 2nd July
Round 2 4th June — Round 5 16th July
Round 3 18th June — Round 6 30th July
Finals 13th August

ENTRY FEE: Nil

The ..... Soccer Club
wishes to nominate for entry into the following competitions:

A) 14 year old age group State Cup ☐
B) 16 year old age group State Cup ☐
C) 18 year old age group State Cup ☐
D) 21 year old age group Robertson Trophy ☐
E) All Age Amateur Cup ☐

COLOURS: SHIRT..... SHORTS.....
SOCKS.....

CLUB CONTACT .....
PHONE.....

This form to be approved and signed by the Association Secretary and then forwarded to:

W. Cullinan, Competition Secretary, 1 Boree Street, Eastwood NSW 2122.
☎ (02) 888 5159

ASSOCATION GROUNDS ⋆ AVAILABLE.....
.....
LOCATION.....
.....
ASSOCIATION SECRETARY — Signature: .....
Date: .....

⋆ For use by all club within the Association

This photograph shows the boys of the Forest Soccer Football Club's under 6 Poplars and Elms team. It was taken at Melwood Oval, Forestville, where the boys train for their matches in the Manly Warringah SFA competitions.

1380 referees service 110,000 players!

THE AASRF NSW DIVISION, (or simply the "DOUBLE A") has a large role to play in the development of Soccer in NSW.

One of our primary roles is to take those people who have an interest in becoming a referee (women and men; girls and boys; providing they are 14 years of age or older) and teaching them what being a referee is all about.

Much of this training takes place during matches.

Predominantly our member branches referee Soccer which is run and organised by member associations of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

This takes in games from the "littlies" through all the age groups up to and including all age.

It is through this wide range of competitions that we are able to offer our referees the chance to develop their skills up to the stage where they are ready to advance into the professional side of the game. More on that a little later.

Our branches also service, where possible, other Football Associations such as the Sydney Amateur League, Womens State League, GPS Schools, Primary Schools, High Schools, Country Associations, Business Houses, etc.

This gives us a ratio of referees to players of 1:80. With approximately 1,380 referees in 1988 we tried to meet the needs of in excess of 110,000 players which make up some 10,000 teams playing each weekend of the season.

Of these referees, there is a percentage that are not available every week, or have restrictions on their availability.

It is not hard from these figures to realise why many have missed out on having a referee at some of your games last year.

Despite the efforts put into trying to recruit new referees, our numbers have remained relatively static.

In nearly all Soccer organisations there is some growth in numbers so, in real terms, even though we might hold our numbers at about the same, we are slipping further behind the growth of Soccer each year.

Where do referees come from?

Our major source of supply comes from clubs.

Clubs must get behind their local referees branches and encourage people to take up refereeing.

Just as there is a strong push to find team managers and coaches each year, *ALL CLUBS* must accept some responsibility in the recruitment of referees.

When did your club last encourage some of its number to take up refereeing?

When next you turn up for a game and there is no referee, remember there just is not enough of us to go around, but that *YOU* can help solve this problem.

We will only be too pleased to arrange for someone to speak to your club on referee matters.

Send back the cut-out "I want to know about being a referee" with your club name and contact.

Sportsafe Programme

THE NSW Government is firmly committed to the issue of safety in sport through its ongoing Sportsafe Programme.

The programme is a statewide campaign designed to increase community awareness of sporting injuries and to offer expert advise on injury treatment and prevention.

The project is a joint initative between the NSW Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing, the NSW Department of Education, the NSW Department of Health and the Australian Guarantee Corporation (AGC).

As part of the Sportsafe Programme an educational package has been produced, comprising a series of brochures and a video.

The four Sportsafe brochures, which have been developed cover the following topics.

- *General safety hints for sport*
- *Overuse injuries*
- *Assessment and treatment of sporting injuries*
- *Rehabiliation of sporting injuries*

Copies of these brochures are available from any regional office of the NSW Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing.

Sportsafe video package is also available for loan from regional offices of the Department, along with additional information on Sportsafe training courses, seminars, and other such relevant programmes.

DID YOU KNOW?

— That the biggest crowd at a Soccer game in Melbourne, besides the 1956 Olympics, was at the Victoria vs AS Roma match?

In 1966, 35,861 watched the Italian tourists play the State XI at Olympic Park. Next largest Melbourne attendance was a year later when 34,000 turned out for Manchester United.

JUNIOR NEWS

- ASW wants to publicise news from local Premier League, junior and schools teams.
- Send your news and photographs to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

Hamilton Medallions agreement renewed

HS Jewellery Industries Pty Ltd, manufacturers of Hamilton brand personalised and standard medallions, sales promotion products, custom jewellery and badges, have once again renewed their licence agreement with the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Ltd.

HS Jewellery have been an endorsed supplier of these products for many years, and have been engaged by the State body to manufacture all of their plaques and medallions during this period.

It is ongoing long term relationships such as these that help Soccer develop a stable image, as well as return part of the expenditure on Soccer products back to Soccer via the State body.

Clubs and associations are encouraged to support long serving reliable sponsors such as these as, not only do they provide competitive prices, but their royalty payment helps subsidise registration fees in order to keep them as low as possible.

Illustrated catalogues and samples of medallions and club badges may be obtained by telephoning Harry Smith on (065) 56 1071 during normal business hours.

Centenary Cup

BANKSTOWN United Soccer Association are hosting this year's Centenary Cup Under 12 tournament in conjunction with the Crest Soccer Club at the club's grounds from Tuesday 28th to Friday 31st March.

Last year's tournament, organised by the Gladesville Hornsby Association, was won by Illawarra, with Sutherland runners-up, after a week of soaking rain which severely tested the resources of the Ryde Council who worked overtime to keep the fields in top condition.

The Crest club boasts five beautifully prepared grounds, and are hoping for more favourable weather in order to make the competition a complete success.

While Sydney branch will field seven teams, the other branches and associations are also well represented with squads from Albury-Wodonga, Riverina, Central Coast, Mid North Coast, Central West and two teams from Tasmania.

The games will kick off each day at 9am and continue through until 3pm.

Many of next year's Youth League stars will be on show. and the

— IAN MARRIOTT

A.C.T.S.F.

FORMER Canberra City player Steve Bryant has signed for ACT First Division side Belconnen United.

Bryant, who served City longer than anyone else in the NSL and NSW State League, was released on a free transfer during the summer.

The man charged with guiding Belconnen this season is former captain Steve Forshaw. He played and scored in his team's last major triumph, the 1985 Ampol Cup final, and has served his coaching apprenticeship with the reserve team.

"Apart from Bryant we have signed John Robertson from Concordia while most of the first-teamers from last year, including John Walsh, Matt Collins, Greg Willett and Richard Tomaszewski, have re-signed, so we have the basis of a very strong team," he said.

There have been some losses — Ian Shaw has taken over as coach of CCAE, Robbie Bennett is going overseas and Norm Holcroft has had a job transfer to Adelaide.

Forshaw, a thoughtful, ball-playing attacking midfielder or forward in his day, said the emphasis would be shifting to a more positive style. "You will see us attacking more — quite simply it is better to be in the opposition's half of the field than your own.

"We are looking for a big improvement on last year — although while many people were disappointed with what we did, we still manage to win the Jim Fraser Cup and appear in the Ampol Cup play-offs.

"One thing we must not do is take anyone for granted. Croatia Deakin may have lost a lot of players but I still consider them our major opponents. CCAE will be strong and while Tuggeranong may have lost Peter Thompson, they have made some other useful signings.

"And who knows that this new Canberra City Concordia will do?"

— GRAHAM COOKE

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

☐ Detlev Lange, an 11-year-old West German schoolboy, made the World Cup draw in Frankfurt. The "luck" of the semi-seeded draw put Australia in the same group as the two Germanies and Chile. English bookmakers promptly quoted Australia at odds of 100-1.

Dedication to aid Canberra Croatia

BY GRAHAM COOKE

FOR the first time in more than a decade the Croatian ACT League side will not be starting the season as one of the favourites for the title.

In fact, as new coach Bernie Lustica said this week, "our target this season is a place in the top four — anything else will be a bonus."

Lustica, in common with everyone at Deakin Oval, recognises that the club now has a new set of priorities. With the takeover of Canberra's NSW League side last season the main energies are channeled into the two teams in that competition — the target being a possible return to NSL Soccer in 1990.

That does not mean the ACT League commitment will be allowed to stagnate. Indeed, Lustica sees it as an essential part of the club scene, and the foundation on which the future of Canberra Croatia will be built.

"In many ways this is a good thing for our local players, especially the younger ones," he said.

"For the last three or four seasons Croatia Deakin has had a settled, experienced line-up and it was difficult for the younger players to break in. Now they will have their chance."

Even so Croatia's losses would give many coaches nightmares.

Of last year's championship winning line-up Zoran Glavinic, Doug Marcina and Zoran Pratezina are now with the NSW League side, Jim Harkins has returned to Scotland, John Santolin is with Inter Monaro, Jack Doherty has switched to Tuggeranong United, Mark Francis is planning to go overseas and Luis Salgado died in a car crash during the summer.

Only Lustica himself, John Bull, Marko Vrkic and John Forova, who missed a good part of the season through injury, are left.

Recruits include former players Frank Reising, who has returned to Canberra after a season away, and Emile Maricic.

"Also the club secretary, Dennis Glavinic, who I have always admired as a player, has promised he will make himself available for us," Lustica said.

"And I am expecting to receive about four players currently in the NSW League reserve squad."

"But beyond that, there will be a great opportunity for the youngsters who were playing in our youth and under-16 teams last year."

A further change will see the name of Croatia Deakin disappear from the ACT League. All the club's teams will now take the name of Canberra Croatia to promote unity.

There is no doubt an era ended with Croatia's victories in the league, Ampol Cup and Wollongong challenge series last year — and it is quite possible that under the changed circumstances the club will be unable to hang on to its traditional dominance of the ACT scene.

And yet, it would never be wise to underestimate the dedication and determination of a new generation of players at Deakin Oval.

Monaro wins but Hoogendoorn out

INTER Monaro has won the inaugural Friendship Cup series against Queanbeyan neighbour Macedonia with two comfortable victories.

Harry Williams' reserves led the way with a 9-0 win and the firsts followed up by beating its opponent, newly promoted to the ACT first division, 7-1.

Canberra Croatia defender Craig Hoogendoorn has decided to give up Soccer for the time being in order to concentrate on his studies.

The former Australian Institute of Sport student, who played in three of the opening NSW Cup games, remains contracted to the club.

Fourth division Adriatic, new to the ACT League this season, would like to hear from players interested in joining the club "especially a goalkeeper," coach John Gadzic says.

Further information can be obtained from Gadzic on (062) 31 7360.

Former ADFA coach Richard Beazley has decided to seek a club this season after all. Beazley, who was treated in hospital for pancreatic complaint earlier this year, said then he would be unlikely to take up any fresh duties this season.

"But I have been given a clean bill of health and the only thing irritating me now is itchy feet," he said. Anyone needing a coach can contact him on (062) 48 3369.

Obtain

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

every Wednesday!

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Write to ASW Letters, PO Box 406, Broadway NSW 2007. Please restrict letters to a maximum of 150 words and preferably typed, otherwise neatly hand-written.

BEHAVIOUR

I'M writing to you as I'm very concerned about the crowd behaviour at certain NSL games.

We've been avid Soccer fans for a long time and watch games in the NSL.

We have been delighted by the Socceroos and also feel that in the last 12 months the playing standard of the NSL has improved 100 percent.

Two teams we like to watch are Sydney Olympic and Sydney Croatia.

However, we very rarely go to their games because the atmosphere is very aggressive.

We feel as if we are intruding and shouldn't be there at all.

The last time we saw Sydney Olympic play, on Australia Day, there were two men in the row in front of us who on every occasion the referee made a decision against their team jumped up on the seats and screamed abuse at him.

At last year's grand final, the Sydney Croatia crowd were fighting at one end of the ground and turned on the police as they attempted to restore order.

The crowd forced the police to release a person they were about to arrest, which pleased the Croatian sitting next to us.

By the way, this also happened a year ago with Sydney Olympic fans at St George Stadium.

I have read three different statements by presidents of those clubs. Each has insulted the Australian public's intelligence by blaming either the ground officials, police, or referees.

It doesn't seem to matter one iota that they are killing the game in this country.

There are a lot of people who would love to go to Soccer, they watch it on TV but wouldn't dream of going to a game because of the strong ethnic atmosphere.

We recently returned from a trip overseas and met a young Australian-born Greek boy.

We got onto the subject of Soccer and he said to us that he was very proud of his heritage but he was an Australian first and it upset him a lot when some mindless idiots spoilt the game for everyone.

I'm going to suggest a few ideas which I dare say you will ignore.

- Anyone who runs onto the field will be evicted from the stadium
- Flares to be banned: they are dangerous in a crowd, and also stimulate the crowd to become more aggressive
- When the game is being televised, the cameras show close-ups of the trouble-makers and the club management be responsible for those people
- Every club be compelled to run an advertising campaign, through their own ethnic newspapers, also pamphlets to be handed out at the gates of each ground on a code of good manners in an effort to make everyone welcome.

Mrs Montgomery,
Loftus NSW

[Copy of letter addressed to the National Soccer League]

NEW SHIRTS

ISN'T it about time the Socceroos got new jerseys? We have seen the same plain old design for the past six years.

Most national teams update their strips every couple of seasons.

How about some shadow striping such as the Dutch have?

With $6 million in sponsorship, let's not send out the Socceroos looking like paupers!

Best of luck to the Socceroos during their World Cup campaign.

Glenn Orr
31 Key West,
Broadbeach Waters
QLD 4218

Refereeing Problems

I am absolutely outraged at the way the incidents that occurred during the Blacktown/Apia game have come out through the media.

I am sure that if asked, every person who attended the game would tell you that the problem was with the referee.

I believe he lost total control of the game, making ridiculous and unfair decisions, even sending a player off by mistake and another for picking the ball up, then putting it down for a sideline throw.

There is no doubt in my mind that he enraged the crowd into violence.

And who could blame the players for being frustrated when the referee stopped the game every few seconds to hand out cards like lollies!

Lisa Elmir
North Sydney 2059

Media Comparison

WHILST Mike Ticher (ASW 1.3.89) may have highlighted some of the current problems with media coverage of Soccer in England, he is way off the mark when suggesting that Australia's media coverage is superior.

Let's examine the different forms of media output:

TV. Until this season, coverage of National League games was on SBS, which for many meant no coverage at all, and for those like myself, the reception was so bad that each game appeared to have been played in a blinding snowstorm.

This season has seen a vast improvement but the ABC has timetabled the program to clash with live action on the field on Sunday.

RADIO. Unlike the excellent coverage at national and local levels in England, radio coverage in Australia is almost non-existent.

The major sports stations in Sydney pay only lip service to Soccer, and extended coverage is only given when unsavoury incidents occur, particularly from Ray 'Never mind the eye gouge, let's expose Soccer violence' Hadley on 2UE.

NEWSPAPERS. The daily newspapers give adequate coverage but generally show apathy for the game.

MAGAZINES etc. Whilst Australian Soccer Weekly is an excellent publication, it is mainly aimed at adults, and there is little for the kids to get enthusiastic about in the form of colour magazines etc, as in the UK.

Simon Buckingham,
Capricorn Rd,
Kings Langley 2147

No Socceroo Television Cover

IN regards to J. Bell of Brisbane who sent a letter to ASW about SBS and ABC coverage of TV Soccer, to me it is immaterial because it may be fine if you live in a capital city, but if you live in the country, SBS does not exist.

Only recently have *we had NSL matches* on the ABC which the local Soccer community enjoys.

So I believe the Australian Soccer Federation should take international games away from SBS and give them to the ABC so I can support the sport I dearly love.

Big city people obviously only care about themselves.

N.P. Bennett,
16 Poppel St,
Gladstone Q 4680

REFEREEING

COULD Ron Beaumont in another article bring out the essential point in refereeing youngsters — assessing *intention* when an opponent is tripped, pushed or kicked?

What his recent ASW article says is, of course, quite correct and sound and sensible.

If the referee deems a push, trip or kick to be unintentional, it is not a foul, so no whistle or free-kick!

This is equally true for adults.

Referees aren't mind-readers, but players of primary school ages, and even up to under-14s in club games are an open book.

Many of them, what with growing limbs on insufficient skills, are prone to trip, push and obstruct opponents without intending to do so.

Very young players, being so short, are more likely to handle the ball unintentionally.

Real offenders are soon identified!

All that's needed, to keep players and parents onside and informed, is a quick comment of "unintentional — play on!" if they hesitate.

So many kids' games are refereed like an NSL encounter. When, at a pinch, it is ALL intentional.

Walter de Ste Croix

Socceroos no-no in country

IN Rockhampton we were assured that the Australia — New Zealand game would be covered by ABC radio interpersed with the cricket.

All we got was a half time summary from Peter Wilkins, and then the fulltime score from the Brisbane studio.

ABC don't cover the internationals on television, and nor does commercial television. We don't even know about SBS in these centres where so many Soccer followers want all the Socceroo news.

I feel that the Australian Soccer Federation should establish a better liaison with the media so that all Australian fans can receive news just as other sports do.

Jim Underhill,
Rockhampton Q.

TV MISSING

SOMETHING *must be* wrong with Soccer that badly needs fixing.

When it comes to internationals we can't get them on television in country cities.

The same thing happened again for the Australia-New Zealand game.

There weren't any scores on either television or radio that we can receive.

Can't the Australian Soccer Federation do something about it.

Peter Radnik,
Olympic Dam,
Roxby Downs SA
5725

★

[To the writer of a letter re violence at the Wollongong City vs Sydney Croatia game, we advise that our man was at the match and made his judgment on his own observations.

Unfortunately, imported arguments with nothing to do with Soccer as a sport continue to hold up progress of the game with the general public.

Letters to be published should meet our requirements and be complete with the writer's signature and address. Any request not to print the name of the writer will be observed. — Ed]

An interview with "Der Kaiser"

Beckenbauer would quit!

FROM ARTHUR ROTMIL AND SIMON KUPER*

WEST GERMANY'S national team chief Franz Beckenbauer has never experienced — and is not likely to suffer — the kind of pressure that England manager Bobby Robson has endured.

But he says bluntly: "If the German team doesn't qualify for the World Cup finals, then I shall resign."

Of course, Kaiser Franz is conscious of the obligation he carries as the team's leader in a country which has never failed to reach the decisive stage of the world championship.

Indeed, the Germans have in their entire history only lost one single qualifying match!

But Beckenbauer is confident that his charges will confirm the promise and emerge successfully from a tough group, which also includes European Champions Holland, awkward Wales and sometimes unpredictable Finland.

Promising

He says: "We now have a young and highly promising team.

"During the European Championships, we fielded a side with an average age of 24.5 — much too young for a national team.

"The best average is about 27, when the players have more experience."

In a special interview, West Germany's boss and his country's most-capped player (103 internationals) explains his optimism and is complimentary about the current state of German club football.

THE chief of the Bundesliga executive committee, Herr Mayer-Vorfelder, demands that foreign-based players not represent the country. Do you agree?

I think we simply cannot ignore, provided they are fit, players like Rudi Voller.

Lothar Matthaus, too, is an exceptional footballer with nearly 70 internationals behind him.

Andreas Brehme is also top-class.

Where would we find better players?

WHAT can be done to stop the exodus abroad? Does Germany not have an industry generous enough to help keep the stars at home?

Of course, there are many enterprises who already support various sports but don't invest in football.

There are already numerous sponsors but certainly there is not the financial potential as, for example, there is in Italy.

The French are being helped by state grants, otherwise they couldn't exist. Why doesn't our Government do something?

We can't compete with Italian wages, where footballers earn three times as much after deductions as a German player does before tax.

What can I say to our young players asking for advice on whether to emigrate?

WHAT do you expect to happen in your formidable World Cup group?

We've got the toughest group of all but our team does have a chance.

Of course, we must not lose in Holland (26 April in Rotterdam) but these encounters are always highly emotional, as old rivalries are being recalled and scores settled.

ARE there any players who have not developed as well as you expected?

I am glad that Uwe Rahn is doing well in midfield for Koln. I count on him, as well as on defender Michael Frontzeck, but neither has convinced me at the highest level.

On the other hand, Andy Moller of Borussia Dortmund is the biggest find of the season.

IS there anything you'd change, mistakes you'd like to rectify?

Yes, there is always something which could have been handled differently. One is clever with hindsight.

HAVE the European Championships influenced German football at all?

I cannot say that we should now try to copy the Dutch style, or the English, or anybody's for that matter.

We should play the kind of Soccer we've always played and done well playing.

WHY was there a big drop in Bundesliga attendances?

Perhaps the fans were spoiled by the European Championships, in which the standard was exceptional.

Furthermore, the season began early during the holiday period while the Olympics caused a three-week break and thus irregular playing days.

HOW would you improve West German football?

I wouldn't change the rules but I would certainly reduce the Bundesliga's First Division to, at most, 16 clubs. The programme would be ideal, though if we're looking for quality, even a smaller league could be an advantage.

*** courtesy WORLD SOCCER**

FRANZ BECKENBAUER in his days as a New York Cosmos player in the late 70s and early 80s. "Der Kaiser" left the USA to join Hamburg, then coach the West German national team with great success.

Emergent Pakistan

PAKISTAN, where hockey and cricket reign supreme, only have 20,000 registered players — out of a population of 90 million-plus.

Karachi is the main Soccer centre but its 85,000-seater stadium has yet to be filled for a football game.

There are two major competitions — the inter-provincial championship and the national football championship.

PIA is the strongest team. Industrial and commercial clubs tend to dominate domestic Soccer. PIA is sponsored by Pakistan International Airlines.

★★★

SHARK-BOUND WIM SUURBIER

WIM SUURBIER, the fullback of the super-Dutch team of the seventies, is now an American citizen. After playing for the Los Angeles Aztecs in the now-defunct NASL, he coached in Fort Lauderdale and is now at the helm of the Miami Sharks.

★★★

DOUBLE DEAL!

GERMANS COLOGNE and IF Naestved of Denmark have joined forces in an extraordinary co-operation deal.

Cologne will pay the Danes $250,000 a year for five years and will get first refusal on any Naestved player available for transfer.

They'll also receive a cut of any fees received by the Danes for players sold to other clubs.

Naestved, meanwhile, can have their pick of Cologne's reserve side, who will be released on temporary transfers free of charge, with Cologne paying their salaries.

OVERSEAS OVERVIEW

- **FC Porto's Portuguese internationa. goalkeeper, Ze Beto, has been suspended indefinitely for alleged indiscipline — only two weeks after another well-known international, Fernando Gomes, was also sidelined for a similar reason by the club.**
- Another Soviet player to move abroad is Igor Ponomariov, Baku's mid-fielder. He has joined Norrkopping, in the Swedish First Division, and becomes the 12th player from the USSR to "go west".
- **Ilke "Bobo" Immel, the goalkeeper who created a sensation by declining West German national team selection three months ago, has re-signed for his club, VfB Stuttgart, for a further three seasons.**
- Christopher Ohenhen, the midfielder who starred for Nigeria in the recent Youth World Cup, has been snapped up by Standard Liege. The Belgian club won the race for his services from a dozen others, all represented in Saudi Arabia, scouting for new talent.
- **FIFA, and all the competing teams, were so impressed by the Saudis' organisation of the Youth World Cup that Saudi Arabia has become a raging-hot favourite to stage the World Cup in — 2006!**
- Sporting Crystal, of Peru, acquired Argentine striker Mario Humberto from Independiente for a bargain $10,000.
- **Brazilian Marinho Peres is John Mortimore's successor as coach of Portugal's Belenenses. Peres' last club was Santos, now only a shadow of the world-famous club it was in Pele's day.**

ARGENTINA DOWN TO COLOMBIA

BY MARIO ETCHART

THE Colombian national team defeated Argentina 1-0 in a friendly international played at the Metropolitan Stadium, Barranquilla, Colombia, in front of 55,000 spectators.

The Colombians dominated the 90 minutes with excellent performances by Bernardo Redin, Leonel Alvarez, Dario Hermandez and the scorer of the game, Arnoldo Iguaran.

Ex-South American Player of the Year Carlos Valderrama made his first appearance for Colombia in 12 momths.

Argentine coach, Carlos Salvador Bilardo, did not field any of his overseas-based stars.

This was Colombia's second consecutive win over Argentina.

The previous one was in July 1987 in the America's Cup, when the visitors defeated the world champion 2-1.

On the ball in

SOUTH AMERICA

BY MARIO ETCHART

THE first round of the Libertadores Cup is nearing its end and the first three teams in each group will go through to the second round.

Already Cobreloa of Chile, Bahia of Brazil, Penarol of Uruguay, Millonarios of Colombia, Boca Juniors of Argentina, Universitario of Peru and Tachira of Venezuela have qualified.

Five games were played last weekend:

• In Montevideo, Uruguayan champion Danubio defeated Bolivar of Bolivia, 1-0, and still has a slim chance of earning a place in Group 5.

Danubio's midfielder Edison Suarez scored the only goal with a well-executed freekick, after 53 minutes.

Three days later, Bolivar conceded its second defeat against an Uruguayan team. This time, Penarol destroyed the Bolivians 5-0, with three goals from striker Carlos Aguilera, the competition's top scorer so far and one apiece from midfielder Cedres and striker Baran.

• At "La Bombonera", home ground of Boca Juniors of Argentina, the locals beat Universitario of Peru, 2-0, in front of 36,000 fans.

After seven minutes, striker Comas put Boca ahead 1-0 with a header, and defender Stafuza, just three minutes before the end, added to the locals' score.

• In Medellin, Colombia, in Group 3, the locals, Atletico Nacional, had to fight hard to defeat Deportivo Quito of Ecuador.

Colombian striker Jaime Arango opened the score in the 22nd minute, but the Ecuadorans equalised 12 minutes later when striker Alex Aguinaga, scored with a powerful drive.

Nacional defender Andrew Escobar headed in the winner in the 81st minute.

• In Group 1, Cobreloa playing at home in Calama, won 2-0 over Paraguayan champion Olimpia, in front of 14,000 spectators.

Argentine striker Raul Espindola scored both goals for the locals in the 61st and 73rd minutes.

ITALIAN SCENE

BY JOE DI MEGLIO

ITALIAN Soccer is notorious for its rumours.

The latest concerns Ruud Gullit, AC Milan's Dutch maestro.

It was said he was negotiating with Real Madrid, but Gullit denied this.

"I've never spoken with anyone from Madrid, and have no intention of leaving Italy. I'm enjoying my Soccer here and I'll continue to play with Milan."

Gullit signed a new three-year deal worth $5.35 million with the Italian champions.

★★★

NAPOLI'S Brazilian import, Alemao, made a successful comeback against Lecce after being out four months with hepatitis. He scored in his team's 4-0 demolition of the relegation-bound Lecce.

★★★

SVEN Goran Eriksson will be in charge of Benfica of Portugal next season.

After being prepared to fork out $6 million for Gary Lineker from Barcelona, reports suggest that Fiorentina were unable to secure Lineker from Spain, so the choice was made easier for Eriksson to leave.

Lineker is also sought by Terry Venables at Tottenham.

★★★

AZEGLIO Vicini, Italy's national team coach, blames the mass importation of foreign strikers for the poor showing of his national team strikers.

"Most of our top clubs have bought foreign forwards and are not giving local-born strikers a chance to break into their first teams, so it's difficult to get experienced players in the national team.

"There are so few outstanding Italian strikers that someone like Vialli, who has not shown form in recent internationals, need not worry because there is no-one as good to take his place."

Little did he realise when he spoke out that players like Andrea Carnevale and Aldo Serena are back in business scoring goals, with Serena being the top scorer at the moment, and Vialli, in dazzling form, scoring five times in his last three outings.

Arsenal striker Alan Smith (right) is jubilant after scoring the equaliser against Nottingham Forest.

In Brief

FOUR Chinese players are now operating in Europe.

Jia Xiuquan and Liu Haiguang are with Yugoslavia's Partizan Belgrade, Xie Yuxing plays for Maastricht in Holland and Shen Xianghi is a member of Japan's Mitsubishi-sponsored Soccer club.

★★★

- **Thomas Hassler, West Germany's best player in last year's Olympic tournament, has renewed his contract with FC Koln until June 1991. The midfielder will earn $200,000 a year, considerably less than Thomas Allofs, who is on a yearly salary of $400,000 and Kohler ($500,000).**
- According to Juventus coach, Dino Zoff, Napoli, not Inter Milan, are the favourites for the Italian title. He believes the Maradona-led team will finish stronger than Milan and win the championship in the last two league rounds.
- **The Danish Taxation Department zapped Soren Lerby with a demand for $900,000 in back taxes, covering his 1979-83 playing days with Dutch club, Ajax!**
- The German Opel car company have signed a sponsorship deal with the Republic of Ireland. They will be putting $1 million into the national team.
- **Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the legendary West German international, will retire at the end of this season when his contract with Swiss club, Servette Geneva, expires.**
- British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan has been receiving hate mail containing used condoms over the government's controversial scheme to introduce ID cards for fans.
- **AC Milan seem ready to accept a $5 million offer from Barcelona for their Dutch international striker.**
- Ajax have persuaded captain Jan Wouters to sign a new contract despite offers from Spain and Italy. Wouters agreed to a five-year contract worth $380,000 a season, plus bonuses.
- **Barcelona have made plans to help finance Ronald Koeman's costly transfer. They have signed a $6 million deal with a Japanese electronics company and, under the terms of the agreement, will play two matches *per season in Japan over the next five years.***

NSL CUP DRAW ROUND 1

Marconi 2 Blacktown City 1
(AFTER EXTRA TIME)
PLAYED AT MARCONI STADIUM, MARCH 18

Wednesday March 22
MELBOURNE CITY JUST v SUNSHINE GC
OLYMPIC PARK 7.30PM

Thursday March 23
ST GEORGE v SYDNEY OLYMPIC
ST GEORGE STADIUM 7.30PM

Thursday March 23
SYDNEY CROATIA v APIA LEICHHARDT
CROATIAN SPORTS CENTRE 7.30PM

Thursday March 23
SOUTH MELBOURNE v PRESTON MAKEDONIA
OLYMPIC PARK 8.45PM

Thursday March 23
MELBOURNE CROATIA v HEIDELBERG UTD
OLYMPIC PARK 7.00PM

ABC-TV SPORT
South Australia Foundation South Australia
mitre sports balls
Vic Health Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
THE DRUG OFFENSIVE A Federal and State initiative
INSURANCE EXCHANGE OF AUSTRALIA IEA
Ansett.
Quit